# AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF W. CARTER;

Being a

# PLEA TO SOME OBJECTIONS

Urged againſt HIM.

---

*LONDON:*

Printed for the Author, MDCXCIV.

# ABSTRACT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

QUARTER

SESSIONS

OF THE

PEACE

FOR THE

COUNTIES

OF

[illegible]

LONDON:

Printed for the Author, 1787.

TO THE

# Merchants, Clothiers, and Drapers, &c.

*Gentlemen,*

I Have for Twenty four Years, uſed my endeavours not only to prevent the Loſs of your Trade in the Woollen Manufacture (ſet up in *France*, with *Engliſh*, and *Iriſh* Wooll) and the Importation of *French* Silks, Stuffs, and Lace, &c. But alſo uſed my utmoſt to regulate the abuſes in the Aulnage (notwithſtanding the objections againſt me) what Steps I made in both, are in part contained in the following Diſcourſe.

In which I have demonſtrated, that my labour was not altogether Fruitleſs, againſt the deſigns of *France*; notwithſtanding all the Craft, and Bribes of *French* Agents, by all the Intereſt they had in our Court the two laſt Reigns; both by ſecret diſguiſe, and open violence, and alſo endeavouring by a Law to ruine our Trade under a very fair and plauſible pretence: Which, give me leave to ſay, that had not the War fell out as it did, we ſhould have hardly been able to keep that Trade we now have; although I had frequent Acceſs to that Government, and did by that means put a ſtop at ſeveral times to it, as in part, in the cloſe of this and another Diſcourſe doth more fully appear.

You cannot but know (at leaſt many of you) that I Printed my ſentiments in the Year 1669. and Re-printed the ſame in the Year 1671. with ſome enlargement of what evil conſequence the Exportation of Wooll to *France* was.

And

And in the following Year, (*viz.*) 72. Wrote an Advertiſement to you therein, an Abſtract of which is included in this Paper, together with what paſt in the Years, 1676, and 77.

But, Sirs, I am now growing Old, being upward of Sixty Years, having ſpent the prime of my Years in your Service, with very many hardſhips, Watchings, and Dangers, when you have taken your Reſt, and improved your time, for your particular and private advantage: It cannot in reaſon now (at this Age) be expected that I ſhould act in that Poſt much longer; and although upon that account it's not probable I may be able to perform thoſe Services in Travels and Watchings, as formerly on the Sea-Coaſt, yet nothing ſhall be wanting on my part (here at the Helm) which I am capable of, for the promoting of your real Intereſt, and by inſtructing ſuch as may for the future be employed by you.

Having given ſome hints about the Trade of *France*, of my endeavours to prevent it, I ſhall crave leave to ſpeak ſomething about the Aulnage. When I was attending the Council and Parliament about the Wooll-Affair, I was by ſome Merchants and Drapers in *London*, put upon the Redreſſing thoſe abuſes then complained of, and was by them deſired to Print a Paper containing the ſame; and by my omitting a Licence, was for that reaſon clapt up in the Gate-Houſe, which was not a little coſt to me; notwithſtanding that diſcouragement, in purſuance of the Deputation, I afterwards received, both from Drapers and ſome others dealing in the Woollen Manufacture, (*Viz.*)

WE*E Whoſe Names are Subſcribed Woollen-Drapers, of* Winton *and* Alsford, *having been for ſeveral Years laſt paſt expoſed to great trouble, with the Officers of the Aulnage; by their entring our Shops, and carrying away our Goods from us, to the diſturbance of us in our Trade, and prejudice of our Goods, thereby to force us to a Compoſition with them; which we have been forced to do, ſome of Ten Pounds, others Five Pounds, and Annually, ſome Thirty, and others Twenty Shillings, to free us from future trouble: Do therefore Authorize our Worthy Friend Mr.* William Carter,

*as*

*as our Agent, and Atturney, to Appear, Petition and preſent for us, unto, and before His Majeſty and Council, and before the Parliament, wherſoever they ſhall be Aſſembled for the removeal of the aforeſaid aluſes, and preventing of ſuch abuſes for time to come; and to do all other things Lawful in and about the ſame, and to act and do for us, in ſuch Lawful way and manner, as by Council ſhall be adviſed, as fully, and effectually as if we were, or might in our own Perſons do the ſame: Witneſs our Hands the 14th Day of* June, 1671. William Harwood, Tho. Wavell, Godſon Penton, Thomas Munday, Edward Grace, Wiliam Smith, and Tho. Standen.

Another Deputation from the dealers in the Woollen Manufacturies, of ſeveral Counties in *England*, and particularly of *Exon*, thus Worded, (*Viz.*)

*WE whoſe Names are Subſcribed Manufactures of Wooll, for the Counties of* Devon, *and* Summerſet, *&c. Having conſidered as well in what we know, as by the Information we have received from other parts of this Kingdom; the great abuſes that have been done to us, and other Manufactures, by ſuch as have been employed in the Office of Aulnage*, &c. The Deputation is *Verbatim* as before, only the Date is the 12th of *May*, 71. Signed by *Thomas Criſpin*, and many hundred of others.

I ſay, in purſuance of the ſaid Deputations, when proſecuting ſome of thoſe abuſes, and being in the Court of Exchequer, in the Year 1673. tho' then complained againſt by the Council for the then Farmers of the Counties of *Suffolk* and *Eſſex*: Yet was then juſtified in open Court by the then Lord Chief Barron, purſuant to a Report to the King and Council made by his Lordſhip Two Years before; as may appear by a Copy thereof, in Page 6th. I am ſorry, I have the occaſion to make an Apology to you upon this Head, whom I have ſo freely ſerved;-and to ſay ſomething firſt of the occaſion of the Bill. by which ſo much trouble was about it, and to no purpoſe, but rather prevented another Bill which would have paſt, to have put the Laws in Execution

againſt

againſt the Exportation of Wooll, and alſo to have Regulated the abuſes of the Aulnage.

The reaſon of the complaint in Parliament, was occaſioned by the differing lengths of ſome of *Gloſter* Cloths, not to ſay by a Clothier himſelf of that County; but before the Bill was brought into the Houſe of Commons, I had ſeveral meetings with the Agent, and told him that if he would attend the Kings Council, I would perſuade the Farmers to conſent to ſuch a Bill, as that no oppoſition could be made againſt it. I remember, I was then going to *Maidſtone* Aſſizes, to proſecute ſome Exporters of Wooll, and whilſt I was there, the Bill was brought into the Houſe of Commons, which hath occaſioned ſo much trouble, not only to no purpoſe, but alſo prevented ſuch a Bill which would have anſwered the ends of all parties.

The Bill which was ſo long depending, was to Transfer the Collecting the Subſidy of Aulnage at the Cuſtom-Houſe; and to ſubject it to all the Laws againſt Frauds in the Cuſtoms, and the duties to be paid there, by the Merchant, and by him to be diſcounted with the Clothier, for the ſame, upon a ſuppoſition that it would ſave charge, and by that means pay the D. of *Richmond*, and thoſe concerned in Intereſt; and alſo be an overplus to defray the neceſſary expence in preventing the Exportation of Wooll; which Bill, after the ſeveral Hearings and Examinations, inſtead of doing both, it did not anſwer one in that manner, beſides the inevitable Trouble and Controverſie betwixt the Merchant and Clothier, for that ſome of the Woollen Manufacture, pays Cuſtom by weight, and ſome by the piece; when at preſent the Aulnage pays all by the piece:

The

# THE PREFACE.

*IT may seem strange to some that after Twenty four Years time, the existence of my Estate, loosing a profitable Trade, and adventuring my life so often, as one Action, instead of many, set down in the close of this Paper, that after all this am constrain'd to make an Apology to those, and for whose Interest I have, with so much candour and freedom, to my own loss, expos'd my self; I must confess, I expected better usage from some than I have as yet received; but since most cannot be ignorant of the Truth of this Abstracted Narrative of my Proceedings, and that in it I have espoused your Cause, and engaged in your Quarrel, and so long fought your Battels, it will not, I hope, be thought unreasonable, if I do now expect but what is just and equitable from reasonable Men; but instead thereof, it hath not been a little surprize to me, to see a Paper Intituled,* The Case of the Merchants, Clothiers, Drapers, &c. *with relation to the abuse of the Aulnages, wherein I am there named* Wooll-Carter, *as a person seemingly justifying the said abuses, and contradicting my former practice, and thereby opposing a regulating those abuses, which charge, if true, I must confess, that a Face of Brass is proper for me; but if the contrary appear, it will return upon the Author of that Paper, as a* False Accuser, *but if it had been done by the advice and consent of those persons therein named, then I must say its hard, for me, and creates not a little trouble to be wounded in the House of my Friends, and at such a time, when I was with so much affection, great difficulty and hazard, pursuing their real Interest, in that affair wherein they have nam'd me, and more particularly endeavouring to prevent all Trade, Commerce and Correspondency with* France, *in which I have not stuck at any pains and difficulty in the Service; but forasmuch as the said Paper was Published (as I was informed) not only without the knowledge of most of the persons therein named, but against the advice of some of those that did appear at* Parliament, *in pursuance of the design in promoting the Bill that have been depending, and miscarried in Four Sessions of Parliament.*

*As for the Charge given against me, give me leave to answer for my self, which Charge is,* viz. We are very sensible of the several Artifices us'd to oppose the Bill, amongst the numbers employ'd therein, there is one known by the name of *Wooll-Carter*, who was formerly a zealous Solicitor against the *Aulnage-Office*, but now by reason of yearly payment, is become their friend, this Man pretending himself a friend to the Shop-keepers, have in several Sessions sent down Printed-Forms of Letters to a great many Corporations, for them to Transcribe and Subscribe, and direct to their Parliament-Men the substance of the Letters were to pray them to oppose the Bill, and think of some other method for the ease of the Shop-keepers. *Which Charge being answered by another hand, I shall say the less to it now, only this, that I was not only a pretender, but a real friend to the Shop-keepers, for it's matter of fact, that I did not only prosecute the several Petitions of the Shop-keepers in most Counties in* England, *the several Sessions of Parliament, from the year* 1673. *to* 81. *most upon my own cost, but when I could do no good in Parliament, by all that labour and time expended, an opportunity was put into my hand by means of some friend of mine, of some great*

figure.

figure, that I purchased the freedom for the said Shop-keepers, without any cost to them and likewise endeavoured to have so settled it by a Law, that it should not be in the power of any Aulnager to have given them any manner of disturbance; and also, to have a Seal of content for the Honour and Reputation of the Woollen Manufacture it self, and Credit of the Clothier, and to prevent all manner of disputes and controversies betwixt all persons concerned; which, I think, is more than a pretence of kindness.

But whilst I was pursuing this latter design, I was by the importunity of several eminent Merchants and Factors in London, taken off the said Service to prevent the Exportation of Wool, what I did in that affair is hereafter more enlarged, which I think I need not to make any further Apology, and may say 'tis a manifest Aspersion, causlesly charged upon me.

Then as to my sending Printed Forms of Letters for the Shop-keepers to transscribe and subscribe, and send it to their Parliament-Men, I own it, being their desire, not only when I have been in the Country with them, but when in London they have wrote to me, to send them Forms of Letters to answer their desires.

As to the Charge against me being formerly a zealous Solicitor against the Aulnage-Office, but now am become their friend, tho' I have in a sense answered this charge before, yet I shall be now more full in it; for as I was the first that contracted for the whole Farm, so I was by that means made more capable to free the Shop-keepers from those abuses put upon them by the former Aulnagers, which give me leave here to relate some of them, viz. The first complaint I produced at a Committee in the year 1673, was four Shop-keepers in the County of Essex paid as a Fine and other Fees the sum of one hundred and sixty Pounds, and forc'd to promise to pay them yearly several sums of Money to free them from future trouble; and amongst many more at Winchester, Windsor, and other places, there was one James Smith of Eaton, since dead, was at the expence of about four-score Pounds, and being but a young man was ruin'd in his Trade, by his being imprisoned, and his Goods Lay a long time under Seisure, and no cause for it, Eleven half pieces of Broad-Cloth, some being the latter ends of the Cloths, where the Seal is not usually fixed, and the Aulnager, without further examination, took away the others that had Seals upon them, all which was fully proved before the said Committee; all this trouble and charge was because he did Replevy his Cloth which the Aulnager had seised.

Let me add one instance of my own case by the same Aulnagers, having sent a Spanish Black-Cloth to a Draper in Portsmouth, in value about 26 l. which Cloth was rightly Seal'd and fixed at the head-end of the Cloth, but the Aulnagers pretending no Seal, took away the Cloth, and carried it away to their Lodging, the Draper having not the liberty to examine the same, was forc'd to pay them down five Pounds, and immediately found by opening the Cloth the Seal fixed as before, notwithstanding which the said Aulnager would not repay the five Pounds, I was forc'd to allow the Shop-keeper, or else have lost his Custom, and run the hazard of a Suit at Law for my Money.

So that my Proceedings were not against the Office of Aulnage, but against such abuses, which being by me regulated, as before, I ought not in justice to suffer for my Real Service.

W. C.

# Give me leave to add the Teſtimony of another Perſon, who to ſome it may be thought ſtrange; ſeeing he himſelf was a Farmer of ſix Counties, and by my means loſt his Farm.

*Gentlemen,*

UPON The peruſal of a Paper Intituled, The Caſe of the Clothiers, Weavers, Merchants, Drapers and Mercers, about the abuſes of the Aulnagers; I find Mr. *Carter* is there reflected on, as a perſon inconſiſtent with himſelf; and the better to deſcribe him, he is Characterered by the Appellation of *Wooll Carter*: I muſt confeſs it's a ſtrange way of requital, to him that hath ſo viſibly ſerved not only the Nation in general, but thoſe in particular whoſe Name the Paper bears. Now in regard I have known Mr. *Carter* many years; (tho' the occaſion, to ſome, would think it ſtrange, that by his means was put out of a Farm, for ſix Counties, for the ſubſidy of Aulnage; yet in as much as I found in his proceedings, preferring the publick before his private Intereſt, and tho' an Enemy, yet acting fairly and above board:) I could not but do him Juſtice, in vindicating his proceedings, notwithſtanding my own Loſs by him.

The ſaid Mr. *Carter*, 1673. in purſuance of a Deputation he received both from Drapers and others, Solicited in the Houſe of Commons, in the Name of the Drapers, in the Counties of *Hertford*, *Eſſex*, and *Berks*; the matter of the Complaint he hath already mentioned in this Preface, but the Parliament being then at that time Prorogued, nothing more then was done by him.

In the Year 1675. he revived the ſame Petition, and ſolicited that, and many other Petitions, and ſeveral hearings were had, and

and thereupon divers Councels were retained by him; and the Parliament ſoon after being again Prorogued, nothing could be more done till the next Seſſion, (*viz.*) 1677, and 78. And then the whole was Re-heard, and the Houſe of Commons came to theſe Votes, thereupon. (*Viz.*)

1. That the Subſidy of Aulnage, ought to be paid by the makers of the Woollen Manufacture, and not by the Retaylers, or any other perſons whatſoever.

2. That the Aulnagers ſearching of Waggons, and Packs on the Road was an abuſe.

3. That the Aulnagers making Drapers, and other Retaylers to pay Yearly Compoſitions for not ſearching their Shops and Ware-houſes was an abuſe.

And a Bill accordingly was ordered to be brought in, to Redreſs the ſaid abuſes, but the Parliament was then again Prorogued.

Shortly after ſundry perſons having taken a Farm of the ſaid Subſidies, and Duties for *London* and *Middleſex*; and in order to take the whole Farm of *England*, (as was deſigned to be ſo let) contracted with many Factors and Ware-houſe Men in the City, for Annual Rents; not to ſearch their Goods, thereby to make the other Farmers of the ſeveral Counties unable to pay their Rents, when the Seal of one Cloth or Stuff was made uſe for ſeveral other Pieces, and to be able to give a greater Fine for the whole than any others; they did deſign, as ſoon they had contracted for the whole, to break off thoſe Agreements in *London*, when the Year was out, and to make Seiſure of what Goods they ſhould then find unſealed, and to do the like in all Corporations, and other Towns in *England*, by the Officers of the Exciſe; by which oppreſſive Action they might have got great Summs of Money, which deſign coming to the Ear of Mr. *Carter*, he prevented the ſame; and then Contracted for the whole Farm, paying down 9000 *l.* ſome conſiderable time before the Leaſe Commenced, and the Farmers were at the

the Expence of near 5000 *l.* more, with Intereſt and other incident Charges in Seating the ſame, both for the eaſe of the Clothiers and Drapers, before they had made any profit, by the reaſon of the ſtanding out of ſeveral conſiderable Counties in the former Leaſes, and notwithſtanding all that great Summ paid down, and the incident Charges, yet the Farmers took not advantage of any one Seizure, but only to Seal the Goods; which I think was very good Service done by him, and was then looked upon ſo; and the rather, that the ſaid Shopkeepers were not only freed from the Fines and Rent formerly paid by them, but from future damages, or any expence for the ſame; beſides which Mr. *Carter* cauſed the Shalloon-Makers in the Counties of *Southampton*, and *Berks*, to be eaſed one quarter of what they had paid the former Farmers.

And alſo procured the Clothiers themſelves, or ſuch as they approved to be Collectors, or Deputies; which I think was real Service to all parties concerned.

And if any accidental difference falls out, he is ſtill ready to endeavour to accommodate the ſame: And therefore he deſerves not to be ſtigmatized, as he is in that Paper Printed, and ſent into moſt Towns in *England*; who has without charging, Faithfully and heartily proſecuted the ſame deſign he ever did. (*Viz.*) Settling the duty in its right place, and to prevent all abuſes that have or may happen to the Retaylers thereby; which as it hath been ſo, I doubt not but it will be his conſtant endeavour.

*J. R.*

That

THat *in* Nov. 1667. *I diſcovered great quantityes of* Wooll *that had been exported in* Auguſt *before, from* Rumney-marſh *( and ſeized ſome ) and alſo from* Ireland, *and diſcovered the ſame to the* Parliament *then ſitting*, p. 1ſt.

*I petitioned* K. Ch. 2d. *for a Party of Horſe in* Rumney-marſh, *and ſome Frigats at Sea, which was granted, and thereby great quantities of* Wooll *were prevented from Exportation*, i. b.

Sept. 1668, *I made Propoſals to the ſaid* K. Ch. *to prevent the Exportation of* Wooll, *which was reffered to the Council of Trade, and reported*, p. 2d.

Auguſt, 69 *I Addreſt the ſaid King, about* Ireland, *which was refered to the Ld.* Roberts *then going, and good effects there were by preventing great quantities of* Wooll *from being carried beyond Sea*, i. b.

*About the ſaid* Mon. *of* Auguſt, *I made a diſcovery of* 5 *Veſſels that came into* Callice *with* Wooll, *and obtained the then Lord Keepers Letters*, &c. p. 2d. *and* 3d.

*By a Report from the Lord Cheif Baron, in* Ianuary 1671, *is the effects of my purſuing the former diſcovery*, p. 6th.

*In the ſaid Year of* 71, *I prevented a deſign of Tranſporting* Wooll *from* Ireland, p. 19.

*That I proſecuted at the Aſſizes in* Maidſton *in* Kent, *fower Perſons, and convicted the ſame*, p. 7th.

*An Abſtract of an Advertiſement to the* Merchants, *and* Clothiers *in the Year* 1672, p. 16. 17. 18.

*In the Year* 1678, *I prevented the deſign of Mr.* Monk, *of leſſening the penalties of the Laws for the preventing the Exportation of* Wooll, p. 8th.

*In*

## The Contents,

*In the Year* 1684, *I prevented a farther design of the said Mr.* Monk, *in a Commission, and petitioned the* Lords *of the* Treasury *to Impower the several Companies of* Merchants &c. *To take a perticular care of that Affaier, and thereupon I did then affresh undertake to look after it, and I prevented great quantities of* Wooll *that Year from Exportation,* p. 9th.

*In the Year* 85, *I attended the* Parliament, *for the Passing of a* Bill, *and petitioned the late King for* 2 Sloops *to Cruse upon the Seas, and did obtain them, tho' oppos'd by the then Commissioners of the Customs; by which means there was above* 20 French *Shallops taken, and condemned, with* 2 *or* 300 Baggs *of* Wooll, *besides much cast over-bord,* p, 10th.

*That in* May 1686, *I did requeſt, and did obtain an* Order *from the then* Lord Treasurer, *to bring up the* Wooll *which was condemned, to* London, *and to be sold to the* Clothiers, *which before used to be sold after Seazure, to those that had exported it, and then exported by them again,* p. 11th.

*That in* Dece. 1686, *I discovered a design of gaining a* Lycence *to Export* 6000 Baggs *of* Wooll *from* Ireland, *and prevented the same,* p. 12th.

*A discovery of a Confederacy betwixt the Officers of the Customs, and the Exporters of* Wooll, p. 12th. 13th.

*The Difficulty I was put to, and Examinations at the Treasury,* p. 14th. 15th.

# THE PROCEEDINGS, Of William Carter Againſt TRANSPORTATION OF WOOLL.

WHereas divers Merchants, Clothiers and Factors, upon conſideration of the great detriment that accrued to this Kingdom, and to the Woollen Trade thereof, in that great quantities of Wooll were tranſported frequently into *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders* &c. did deſire and encourage me, to endevour the preventing the ſame; which being readily willing to undertake, I perceived that tho' there were many ſevere Laws made againſt exporting Wooll, and tho' the wiſdom of our Anceſters found it ſo miſchievous and deſtructive to this Kingdom, as to make the Offence Capital, notwithſtanding either by the wilful corruption, or groſs neglect of Officers, great quantities of Wooll were clandeſtinely exported, by thoſe who, for a little private gain to themſelves, dare venture their Necks, to ruin the Trade of a Nation.

Applying my ſelf therefore cheerfully to ſo neceſſary a Work in *Auguſt* 1667, I made a diſcovery of twelve *French* Shallops loaded in one Night, from *Rumney*-Marſh in *Kent*, with conſiderable quantities of Wooll, and ſometime afterwards, I cauſed a quantity of Wooll, to be ſeized as it was carrying on the Beach, near *Camber* Point in the ſaid *Marſh*, in order to be ſhipped on board ſome Shallops, that lay in *Rye* Harbour.

I alſo diſcovered great quantities of Wooll, likewiſe exported beyond Sea out of *Ireland*; although in that Kingdom, the exportation thereof be alſo prohibited, unleſs the ſame by Licence be exported into *England*.

At the next Parliament, in *November* 1667. I preſented the exportation of Wooll, and the National Dangers thereof, to the Houſe of Commons, which being referred to a Committee, to conſider of, they examining of the *Iriſh* exportations, ſoon found the ground of that Miſchief to be, that under colour of a Licence granted by his late Majeſtie, to export ſome hundred Packs of Wooll, ſeveral thouſand Packs were colour'd by that Licence from *Ireland*: Upon which the ſaid Committee made an Addreſs to his ſaid Majeſtie, to revoke the ſaid Licence, for the apparent frauds practiſed therein, which his Majeſtie accordingly did.

After the adjournment of that Parliament, upon the importunity of the ſaid Merchants, and finding the Wooll-exporters, by their impunity grown to ſuch confidence, as to Ship off their Wooll openly in the day time, with armed Men to aſſiſt them, in the doing thereof; I petitioned his ſaid Majeſtie for a party of Horſe to ſcout about *Runny* Marſh, and ſome Frigats to cruſe at Sea, to prevent thoſe exportations, which by his ſaid Majeſtys Grace and Favour I did obtain, and by my attendance, ſometimes at Sea, and ſometimes at Land, with one and ſometimes two Servants, did prevent the exportation of above one Thouſand Packs of Wooll that Summer from the ſaid Marſh, and by that means was bought up by the Clothiers and Staplers, which the Year before was moſt of it Exported.

In *September* 1668, I preſenred ſome propoſals to his ſaid Majeſty in Council, in order to prevent the ſaid exportations, which were referred the 20*th* of *November* following to the Council, of Trade, with this particular Order, (*Viz.*) "You are very ſtrictly to enquire, and in "form your ſelves by what ways and practiſes the Wooll of this Kingdom comes to be ſtollen, "embeſled, and ſent away into forreign Parts, contrary to Law; what places (*&c.*) are moſt "ſuſpected in *England* or elſe where, and who doth buy the ſaid Wooll in thoſe places, to the "end that nothing of care or watch may be omitted, but that all ſuch ſtrict and ſevere courſes "be taken, that an evil, ſo miſchievous and inconvenient, may be totally prevented.

When I carryed this Order, with my Propoſals, to the ſaid Council of Trade, they immediatly choſe a ſelect Committee on purpoſe to peruſe them, where I was ordered to attend, which attendance laſted a good part of that Winter; the ſaid Committee ſummoned and heard divers Merchants, Clothiers, Factors, and Staplers, and then made their Report, which was Read before his Majeſty in Council, upon which, an Order was made the 2. of *April* 1669. in theſe words (*viz.*)

*Whereas in purſuance of an Order of this Board, of the* 20th. *of* November *laſt, referring to the Council of Trade the Propoſals of* William Carter, *for preventing the Exportation of Wooll; the ſaid Council having returned their Report to the Board, that having diſcourſed with the ſaid* William Carter, *and ſuch other Perſons, as they thought capable of giving them any good information, touching this matter, they find the Exportation of* Wooll, *is of a deſtructive conſequence to the Trade of this Kingdom, and that the ſame hath grown into practiſe; as well by reaſon of the doubtfulneſs and proviſions in the Statute made in the* 12th. *year of his Majeſties Reign Prohibiting the* Exportation *of* Wooll, *as by the neglect and remiſſneſs of Officers, in not putting the Laws in execution*: And therefore propoſed, that the care of that buſineſs, ſhould be eſpecially recommended to the Prefident and Governors of *Chriſts* Hoſpital in *London*, for the ſeveral Reaſons in the ſaid Report, purſuant to which Report, his Majeſtie directed a Commiſſion to paſs under the great Seal of *England* for that purpoſe, to the ſaid Preſedent and Governors; but before the Commiſſion paſt under Seal, I did carry the ſaid Report, and Order upon it to the Prefident and Governors of the ſaid Hoſpital, who immediately cauſed a Court to be called, and upon reading thereof, did accept of that Authority then intended to be given them, upon which I informed the Council of their willingneſs therein, and did then proceed and ſolicite the buſineſs ſo far, as to paſs the Commiſſion at my own charge, under the great Seal, and carried it to the Preſident and Governors, in expectation they would have taken it upon them, as they had agreed, but in ſome ſhort time after they declined the imployment, and returned the Commiſſion back to the King and Council, and plainly refuſed to act therein, upon ſome frivolous objections, without allowing me one penny for the money expended, which was not leſs then 40*l.* beſides my own Labour and Attendance.

The next Seſſion of Parliament, being in the year 1669 Sr. *Orlando Bridgman* the then Lord Keeper, brought into the Houſe of Lords an explanitory Bill for hindring the ſaid Exportation, under ſome new penalties.

Before which time *William Facon* of *Canterbury Woo*ll-Comber, and one *Marſh* of *Hoakam* near *Dover* a Farmer, were brought up before the Houſe of Commons for Exporting 44 Packs of Combed *Wool* from *Canterbury*, where being examined, they were ordred to be tryed at the the next Aſſizes at *Maidſtone* in *Kent*, whereupon I was comanded by his Majeſtie and Council, to proſecute them according to Law, for the ſaid Felony; but when I came to *Maidſtone* I could not hear of any ſuch perſon, there being no Recogniſance taken for their appearing there, nor any Witneſſes attending to prove the Fact, ſo I loſt my Jorney but afterwards I unde ſtood that he had compounded with his Accuſers, and taken off the Witneſſes, ſo that the Order of the Houſe of Commons, and his Majeſties care therein, proved altogether ineffectual.

About *Auguſt* following in the ſame year 1669, underſtanding that the Late Earl of *Radnor* was deſigned to go Lord Leivtenant for *Ireland*, I petioned his Majeſtie in Council, for ſome care to be taken in preventing the Exportation of Wooll from *Ireland*, who was pleaſed to Order a Letter in Council, recomending the care thereof, to the ſaid Lord Lievtenant, on whomie I waited at his departure as far as *St. Albans*, and at my parting with his Excellency there, he promiſed to Act effectually therein, which his Lordſhip did accordingly: In ſo much, that within ſix weeks time after he came to *Ireland*, there were landed at *Minehead*, above one thouſand Packs of *Wooll* more in that time, than had been there landed within the like ſpace of time, in any year before, and the like proportionable at *Liverpool*, *Cheſter*, *Briſtol* and *Barnſtable*, which quantitie of *Wooll* in other years uſed to be Exported out of *Ireland* beyond the Seas, upon pretence of being ſhipt for *England*.

In a ſhort time after, I made a diſcovery of five Veſſels loaden with *Wooll* arived at *Callice* in *France*, one of which belonging to *Dover*, two to *Folkſtone*, and two to *Hythe* in the County of *Kent*, upon which the Lord *Keeper* was ordred by the King in Council, to write a letter to the Mayors of *Dover*, *Folkſtone* and *Hythe*, which was to this effect.

Gent-

Gentlemen,

*THis bearer* William Carter *brings along with him a Copy of an Information, concerning the Transportation of* Wooll; *but it being a matter of so high concernment to his Majestie and this Kingdom, as scarce any thing more, to prevent the Transportation of* Wooll, *and the punishment of the Offenders: I do earnestly recommend it to you, to examin the Persons named in the Information, and to make all the enquiry you can, concerning these and such others, as you shall have cause to suspect to be guilty in this kind, and to certifie what you find herein, that his Majestie in Council may give further Orders thereupon, not doubting of your care herein,*

Your Loving Friend

*Orlando Bridgman.*

*Ess.* House, *Aug.* 30. 1669.

With this Letter I rod Post to *Dover*, and having there secured one *Thomas Peirce*, a Master of one of the said Vessels; whilst he was examining before the Mayor, his wife being present, and hearing the names read of the other Masters at *Folkstone*, and *Hythe* in the Information mentioned, and her Husbands Vessel then lying at *Folkstone*, she presently gets a Horse and rides thither, and discovers the business there; by which means, when I came to *Folkstone*, (tho' it was the same day) I was frustrated of my design there, the Mayor and Masters being all got out of the way before I came, but hasting to *Hythe*, by chance met with one *Mark Spicer*, Master of another of the said Vessels: But before I could find the Mayor of *Hythe*, to examine the said *Spicer*, he made his escape towards *Folkstone*, whether I followed him, and just as he came to the Sea side, where a Boat lay to receive him, I seized him; but the Women of the Town being before alarmed by *Peirce*'s Wife (it being all in one day) came out of their Houses, and gathered up stones upon the Beach, which they flung about my ears so violently, that having no help, I was forced to quit my Prisoner, hardly escaping my selfe.

Returning back to *London*, and there being a Council designed to meet at *Hampton Court*, I went thither and waited on the Lord *Keeper Bridgman*, to whome I gave an account of my whole Journey, his Lordship ordred me to attend while the Council sate, which I did, and was then called in and related all the said particular passages to his Majestie, who was pleased to command me to go down into *Kent* again, and ordered a party of Horse to assist me.

But before the party of Horse were ready, I received an Information of Ten Thousand Stones of *Wooll*, Shipt in five Vessels from *Gallaway* in *Ireland*, and coulorably entred for *Plymouth* and *London*, &c.

I better knowing, than being able to prevent the usual Frauds practised in *Ireland*, where under pretence of getting a Licence from the Lord *Livetenant*, to Ship *Wooll* for *England*, sometimes double the quantity Licenced was Shipt, and the Law requiring Bonds with sureties, to be given for landing the *Wooll* Licenced at some Port in *England*, some times insufficient Security was taken, and so the Bonds were of no effect, sometimes false and counterfeit Certificates were procured out of *England*, in discharge of those Bonds, that the *Wooll* was landed in *England*, when in truth it was not, sometimes those Bonds tho' actualy forfited and detected, yet were easily compounded for at low and cheap Rates, and at other times by the corruption of Officers, several Bonds were compounded for, assoon as they were entred into, even before the departure of the Vessel out of the Port, whereby Offenders were incouraged to break the Laws, by knowing and paying the price of their Punishment before they committed the Offence; which mischeifs being willing to obviate so far as I was able, upon diligent enquiring, I had good reason to suspect, the said Ten Thousand Stone of *Wooll* was really designed to be Exported beyond the Sea, and not intended either for *Plymouth* or *London*, as was pretended by the Entries.

And thereupon I applyed my self to the then Farmers of his Majesties Customs, for an order to ride down into the Southern Ports, to examine what *Wooll* was lately come thither from *Ireland*, to prevent Frauds by counterfit Certificates, which I obtained. Being arrived at *Exeter* with their Order, I understood, that one *Blake* an *Irish* Man had been lately there, tampering with some of the Custom Officers, to get the Form of their usual Seal, and the Names of the said Officers; upon which I immediatly wrote to my Correspondent in *Ireland*, who upon my Information found out the said *Blake* at *Galloway*, and discovered that he was concerned in all, or most of the said five Vessels, and that he had gotten counterfit Certificates, Importing as if the said Wooll had been really landed in *England*, when it was not, and by that Means was designing to get upon discharge the said Bonds, but I prevented the doing thereof by examining the Matter, and finding that some of those Vessels unloaded their Wooll at *Flushen* in *Zeland*, some at *Amsterdam*, and one at St. *Malos* in *France*; of the Truth of which I procured Oaths and Attestations, some of which are now in my Custody, whereby those false Certificates were detected, and the discharge of those Bonds prevented.

Afterwards returning to *London*, and dispatching into *Kent*, according to His Majestie's Command, the Party of Horse being then gone before to *Canterbury*, for my Assistance in *Rumney-Marsh*, we had Notice of a parcel of Wooll, secured in a House called *Brokman's Barn*, which securing and the Person in whose Custody it was, a great Discovery by him (of other Exporters) was made and prosecuted, as more fully may appear hereafter.

☞ Note, *That* William Facon *before mentioned, who had been before the House of Commons*, Anno Dom. 1668, *was brought up to the King and Council, in* Anno Dom. 1669, *and before he could have his Tryal, was privately Compounded with by his Accusers the second time, tho' the King had expresly ordered his Tryal.*

In *September* 1669, the Late King going to meet His Sister the Princes *Henrieta Maria*, at *Dover*, (during His abode there) going out one day to Sea, and observing a Vessel belonging to Captain *John Steell*, Sergeant to the Admiralty, to out Sail any of His own Pleasure Boats; Such was the Zeal His Majesty had against the Exportation of Wooll, and his Care to prevent it, that He was pleased to hire Her on purpose for that Service, Commanding the Assistance of my Advice to the Captain, in Cruising about the Coast of *Kent*, to prevent the said Exportation, which was so succesful, with some other Vessels for some time, that together with the Discovery before mentioned, both as to *Ireland* and *Kent*, a great stop was then put to the said Exportation; which is confirmed in a Letter, afterwards wrote from *Lile*, the 5*th*. of *March* 1671, viz.

Sir.

*I Received Yours of the* 17th. *&* 27th. *of* February, *under cover*, &c. *about the Wooll Affair; I have much Reason to believe, un'ess some are made Examples, there will be continual Abuse; the Comodity both* English *and* Irish, *Raw and Combed, abound so much in these Countries, that for that which would yeild, not long since* 8 Stivers *and a half* per. *Pound, will yeild now but* 6 *and a half; yet they would be content to give* 15 *rather than want it, for they cannot make abundance of* Fabrik, *viz.* Wollen *Manufacture, without* English *or* Irish *Wooll.*

*There is a City not* 5 *Leagues from this, called* Tourney, *a Place renowned, for the making of all sorts of Stockings of Wooll; it's not above* 20 *Years since, that they betook themselves to make the Worsted Hose; A Trade, which in my Minority, was considerable from* London, *into these Countries, and now you may have a Parcel of* English *Worsted Hose* 20 *Years by you*, &c.

*It's not above three Years agon, that there was a scarcity of Combed Wooll, in this Quarter of the Country, and several of those Stocking Merchants, came hither to buy some; I told them, that such scarcity was used in* England, *that People were mad if they Adventure.*

The

The next Session of Parliament 1670, the House of Commons being under the Consideration of raising of *Money* for His *Majesty*; it was propounded, that Wooll might be Transported from *Ireland*, paying 2*d*. or 3*d*. Per. *pound* Custom, and 3 reasons was offered, the answer to which, I shall now waive tell I come the to proceeding in Parlement in a distinct discourse.

The Parliament then adjourning in the year 1671, I setled a Correspondancy in *Irland* and *Flanders*, in order to know, whether the quantities of *wooll* exported from *Irland* was caried to the other, and directed Captain *Steel*, the Owner and Master of the Vessel beforementioned, to stear his course accordingly, but after this Coresponcancy was setled I was taken ill of a Feavor in *June* 1671 which held me 4 monthes, and a little time after the said Vessel was called in, and so the Exporters for some time had liberty to carry out their *Wooll* without controul.

In *August* 1671 one *Edward Nichols*, being commited to Newgate dureing my sickness for Transporting *Wooll*, and no per on being willing to prosecute him, was like to be discharged upon which I assoon as I was recovered did Immediately address my self to his Majestie in Council, for the further continuance of the said *Nichols* in Prison, till he should be discharged by Law, and an Order was forthwith granted accordingly. But there arose a Question before the King and Council, in what Court he should be tryed, whether by the Admiralty, or by common Law, (the Vessel being taken with the *wooll* in the River of *Thames* near *Graves-end*) and it was refer'd to all the Judges to meet and consider the matter, and afterwards to Report their Opinion to the King, upon which Report, it was debated before the King in the presence of the said Judges, and the then Judge of the Admiralty, whither the said *Nichols* should be tryed by Common Law or not, and after a long consultation in the Council, it was Ordered as followeth, (*viz.*)

White Hall *the* 13th. *of* December 1671: *It is this day Ordered by his Majestie in Council, that the Recorder of the City of* London *do, and is hereby required, by the best wayes he can, speedily to find out in what County that part of the River of* Thames *lyeth, wherein the said* Edward Nichols *was apprehended, for Transporting of* Wooll *contrary to Law, and that he Report the same to the Lord Chief Justice of his Majesties Court of* Kings Bench; *to the end his Lordship may give order for removal of the said Prisoner, to the Goal of the said County, where it shall appear he was taken, in order to his Tryal at the next Assizes, to be holden for that County.*

But the burthen and care of observing this Order, lay cheifly on me: Tho' the Vessel was in truth taken with the Wooll on board on the *Essex* shore, and for that reason the Prisoner removed to *Chelmsford* Goal, and thence brought to Tryal at *Chelmsford* Assizes, yet upon examining the Witnesses on the Tryal it did appear, that the Prisoner was not secured when the Vessel was Seized, tho' then on Board, but got away out of the Vessel, and two daies after were taken on Shore at *Graves-end*, upon which the Tryal was Ordered to be at the then next *Maidstone* Assizes, held for the County of *Kent*, which was the 12*th*. of *March* 1671, Whereupon my prosecution, the said *Nichols* was tryed and Convicted of Felony, as afterward will more fully appear: About which time I did also discover the owner of the Wooll for which *Nichols* was Convict, and caused him to be taken into Custody, and unto Tryal also; but notwithstanding, his mony purchased such Intrest, that he did Compound and was discharged, without my knowledg, and against my will: About which time, and before the Tryal of the said *Nichols*, I petitioned his late Majesty for some supply to carry on the Affayre; which being refered to the then Lord Cheif Barron, his Lordship Reported as followeth, (*viz.*)

*May*

May it pleaſe Your Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

*In Obedience to your Majeſties ſecond Order of Refferance bearing, date the* 20th. *of* December *laſt, hereunto annexed; I have conſidered of the Matter thereby to me Refered, and have diſcourſed with the Petitioner about his Charges and Expence, in proſecuting the Tranſporters of Wooll; the which he hath reduced to ſome certainty, and put it into writing, and hath alſo made Affidavit of the Truth thereof; the which is likewiſe hereunto annexed, whereby it appears that during theſe 4 Years laſt paſt, wherein he hath brought into your Majeſties Exchequer about* 800*l. more than in former Years had been received, he hath Expended near as much, but there be many more Informations ſtill depending, if proved may bring in a grater Summ; But without ſome ſupply at preſent from your Majeſty he will not be able to proceed with them; if therefore your Majeſty be pleaſed to give your Petitioner* 300*l. it will incourage and Inable him to proſecute the Informations depending. And if he ſhall Convict the Offenders, he will be capable of your Majeſties further Grace and Favour, all which I moſt humbly ſubmit unto your Majeſties Judgment.*

January 3*d.* 1671. Ed. Turnor.

In which Report it doth appear that I had then expended 800*l.* and ordered 300*l.* in part until other Proſecutions brought in more Money, in a further purſuance of the ſaid Offenders, I expended about 150*l.* more, and the very Fees, Attendances, and Gratuitys to recieve the 300*l.* coſt me 50*l.* ſo that I had then but 100*l.* towards my 800*l.* And tho' I had proſecuted ſeveral Offenders (*viz.*) Indicted ſome at the Aſſizes and exhibited divers Informations in the Exchequer againſt others, yet notwithſtanding, partly by Compoſitions of the Officers, and partly by an Act of Parliament for a general pardon, I was then fruſtrated of my deſign, and prevented recieving the Ballance of my Accounts, beſides which being then complained againſt by ſome, for uſing a Millitary Power, (*viz*) a party of Horſe in that Affayre, though only for the preſervation of my own and others Lives, in execution of the known Laws; I was forced to decline that ſervice at that time in *Kent*, the effect of all which was, that great quantities of Wooll was then exported, as well from *Ireland* as from *Kent*, which is confirmed by the following Leter, part of which I have before incerted to prove the effect of my firſt attempt, the remainder follows, (*viz.*)

*Both* Engliſh *and* Iriſh *Wooll, Raw and Kembed abounds much in theſe Countrys, and for the Kembed Wooll, moſt of which comes from* Dover *and* Canterbury *Tranſporters:* Callis, Deep, St. Vallerys, Ablivejle, Amens, Dunkirk, Oſtend, Bridgees, Zealand, Rotterdam, *and* Ghent, *all over theſe Provincts, every place is choaked with it; ſo that you may eaſily ſee how inſenſibly the ſe* Dover *and* Canterbury *Tranſporters, draw the Kingdoms Hearts Blood from them; I could ad much more of the great beneſit our Neighbours receive by it, which proves to an abſolute Ruine; But I guiſs you can as eaſily comprehend my Meaning, as if I had further enlarged.*

*In a word* France *rejects our Fabricks at this day, preſuming that they ſhall never want our Wooll to make their own fantaſtick Fabricks, which are ſo variable, as puts a great ſtop to the Currant demand, that uſed to be of our more ſolid Fabricks, for they will pretend to give the Mode to all the World;*

*and*

*and so by this means, in time, all the World will be disgusted with our Fabricks, when by consequence, they shall receive the Mode from the French; consider of this I pray, that so there may be some speedy remedy.*

Which Leter is confirmed by two other in these words, *(viz.)*

*We have here a miserable Tarriff lately come forth, that Taxes Serges at* 25, *Cloth at* 40, *Cottens, &c. at* 10 *Florens per.* 100 *weight, the misery is the great quantity of Wooll that is stolen from* England *to* France.

So repeating the substance of the former Letter only differing expressions, and more large, concluding in the last thus, ( *viz.* )

*The* French *are now got into a way of makeing a low price sort of Cloth, called* Searg de Berry, *which comes as cheap as* Northern *Cloth, its about* 5 *quarters broad; they have so much, in which they have Cloathed a great number of their Souldiers, and all made of* English *and* Irish *Wooll.*

After the Assizes were over, I went again into *Kent*, and aboad some time there, looking after the Exporters, on the Sea Coasts I found 2 Vessels near *Hythe* appointed, and lying ready to carry away Wooll, one of which I had been informed had done little else for a long time, of which *William Rayly* before mentioned was Master, the other Vessel was new built by another person usually employed in that design, but nothing was attempted whilst I was in the Country: But having occasion to come to *London*, I gave notice of the Design to two several Officers, by me appointed to be vigalent, who Seized 12 Packs of the Wooll designed to be Transported in one of the said Vessels, being brought down to the Sea side, ready to be ship'd off, and secur'd in the House of one *Nicholas Davis*, and afterwards part of it was rescu'd by the Inhabitants, who rose in the night with Weapons, to the number of 20 Persons, and wounding the Officers, carry'd away 8 of the said 12 Packs; but afterwards the said *Nicholas Davis* was taken and secured, in order to his Tryal.

Thereupon the said *Nicholas Davis*, together with *Thomas Knight* and *Thomas Stoner*, all three Inhabitants of *Rumney-Marsh*, were by me prosecuted at *Maidstone* Summer Assizes 1671 for Transporting Wooll, where they were also Tryed and Convicted thereof; and the same Assizes, together with the said *Edward Nichols*, formerly convicted, were burnt in the Hand, as may appear upon Record.

These are to Certifie, that at the General Goal delivery holden at *Maidstone*, in the County of *Kent*, the 12*th.* of *March* in the 24*th*, Year of His now Majesties Reign 1671 *Edward Nichols Marriner* was convicted of *Felony* for Transporting of Wooll; And that on the first Day of *August* in the 24*th.* Year aforesaid, *Thomas Night*, *Nicholas Davis*, and *Thomas Stoner*, were convicted of *Felony* for the like Offence.

These are further to Certifie, that *Wm. Carter* Gent. did on His *Majesties* behalf attend the respective Tryals of the said *Nichols*, *Night*, *Davis*, and *Stoner*, for the respective *Felonies* aforesaid, and did then manage the respective Evidences against them, and thereupon cause them to be prosecuted and convicted for the said *Felonies* as aforesaid; given under my Hand, the 22*th.* of *April* 1676, and in the 28*th.* Year of our Soveraign Lord *Charles* the Second, *&c.*

*Tho. Lee*
Clark of the Assizes.

These Proceedings being carryed on in the Intervale of Parliaments, at the next Session I procured and solicited a Bill to pass, so farr as to be read twice, refered and engrossed in the House of Commons, being the Substance of that Bill before mentioned, brought in by the Lord

Lord Keeper *Bridgman*, but by the Means of one Mr. *Francis Monk*, it was obſtructed, on purpoſe to uſher in another Bill of his projecting, pretendedly to obſtruct, but intendedly to encourage the Exporting Wooll, as by a Draught of the ſaid Bill it ſelf is ready to be made appear.

In the Year 167°, the ſaid Mr. *Monk* Solicites another Bill in the Houſe of Commons; pretending thereby to make the Laws more practicable; but intending to Repeal the ſtrength of the Act in the 14*th.* Year of his late Majeſties Reign, which Bill being Committed, and almoſt paſt the Committee (I being ſo much diſcouraged for want of Money, that I had little Intereſt in the Clarks) nevertheleſs watching his Motion, did get a worthy Member to move the Committee, to appoint ſome *Merchants* and *Factors* to attend them, and to the end, for that time adjorned, by which means I prevented his deſign that Day: And in the mean time printing ſome Reaſons againſt the Exportation of Wooll, for the Information of the Committee, before their next Meeting; whereupon his Bill was rejected and laid aſide.

After which time little was to be done in Parliament, for 3 or 4 Years, by reaſon of other things then Tranſacted.

But about he Year 1682, Mr. *Monk* Petitioned the late King in Council, to have a Commiſſion Empowring divers Perſons to put the Lawes in Execution againſt the Exportation of Wooll, ſome of which Perſons came to my Houſe in the Country, upon the Pretence that ſome Gentlemen at *White-Hall*, being willing to undertake the buſineſs, and hearing that I had ſpent ſome time in that Affaire, deſired my Aſſiſtance, and to give them a Meeting, which accordingly I did, and had ſeveral Meetings with the Gentlemen, till I was informed by ſome of them that Mr. *Monk* was concerned: Upon which notice I told the Gentlemen, that the Project laid by Mr. *Monk* would not do, and adviſed them to ſ. are their Money, and ſo parted: But notwithſtanding my Caution, they did proceed upon the ſaid Petition before mentioned, untill their whole Deſigne was laid aſide, as you will find by the following Reſſerences, and Reports thereon, (*viz.*)

By an Order of Council dated the 2*1ſt. March* 1682, and the Reports from the Lords Committee of Trade, *&c.* made to his late Majeſtie upon the Petition of *Francis Monk* and others, praying a Commiſſion to put in Execution the Laws Prohibiting the Tranſportation of Wooll, *&c.* Informing his ſaid Majeſtie that there were very great abuſes in unlawful Exportations of that kind, which were of pernicious conſequence, and that the fitneſs of the Commiſſioners to be imployed in that Affayre, and the cautions to be uſed therein, were refered to the late Lords of the Treaſury to conſider of, for the better putting of the Laws in Execution.

The matter of the ſaid Order of Council, with other Papers and Propoſals, made by the Petitioners, were referred by their Lordſhips, to the Commiſſioners of his ſaid Majeſties Cuſtomes; who by their Report dated the 8*th.* of *June* 1683 do approve that ſome Perſons be appointed for that Service, under ſuch Authority as ſhould ſeem meet: And that the Perſons to be intruſted ought to be of known Honeſty.

Alſo the whole Matter aforeſaid was referred to *Mr. Attorney General*, who made his Report concurring with the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtomes; and he further adds, that Security ſhould be given, that upon Seizures no Compoſitions ſhould be made without Lycence.

After which, the whole matter and Reports being referred to the Company of *Merchant Adventurers* of *England*; they Reported that all Perſons, that ſhall faithfully endeavour to hinder the Exportation of Wooll, *&c.* as aforeſaid (without connivance to the Offenders, or ſiniſter regard to themſelves) ought to be encouraged; for as much as the Exportation is become a National Miſchief, and threatens the utter Ruine of the Woollen Trade, if not timely prevented; that ſeveral Neceſſitous Perſons, having been formerly Commiſſionated, ſtudying their own Profit, inſtead of hindering the ſaid Exportation, have rather Aſſiſted and Promoted, than Prevented the ſame.

Which Reports being Read by their Lordſhips, and the Anſwer of Mr. *Monk*, were ſent the 10*th.* of *March* 1683 to the ſaid Company for their further Conſideration; who in *April* 1684 ſent for me to attend them about the whole matter; who after ſeveral meetings with a Committee of the ſaid *Merchants Adventurers*, *Levant* and *Eaſt-Land* Companys, I attended the

Sea-

Sea Coaſt with 2 Men, one on Board Captain *Brown*, and another on the Shore, by which great quantitys of Wooll were Seized and Condem'd, and much more prevented from being Exported that Summer, than was Seized or Condemned.

The ſaid *Monck* and others Exhibiting again further Propoſals for the carrying on that Service, on the 4*th.* of *April* 1684, the ſame were tranſmitted to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtomes, who the 25*th.* of the ſame Month, Reported that they did look upon thoſe men not fitt to be Imployed in ſo great a Truſt, notwithſtanding they produced the Certificates of ſeveral Clothiers, &c. Purporting their deſire that the ſaid perſons might be imployed in that Service, which Clothiers &c. So Certifying they found to be generally mean Perſons, not to be credited in a thing of that Nature and Conſequence: and requiring the ſaid undertakers to produce Certificats from known Merchants, *Blackwell-Hall* Factors &c. they declined to do the ſame.

The ſaid Company of Merchants-Adventurers of *England*, made their Report on the Papers ſent the Commiſſioners the 10*th.* of *March* 1683 wholy againſt the undertakers, for that they deſigned their own private profit, more than the effectual carrying on the intended Work; and the ſaid Company were well aſſured that if the undertakers could have no gain at all, Honeſtly, they would of neceſſity miſs the main deſign of their undertaking.

Upon all theſe Tranſactions there was a Petition drawn up by me, and exhibited to the ſaid Lords of the Treaſury by ſeveral Clothiers and Factors of the Woollen Manufacture within the Countys of *Worceſter*, *Gloceſter*, *Somerſet* and *Wilts*; and taking notice that the undertakers were deſigning to obtein ſuch a Commiſſion as aforeſaid, upon ſuppoſition that they were thereunto encouraged by many Thouſands of the Woollen Manufacturers, the Petitioners diſown any ſuch Power, and do therein Pray that the propoſals, being matter of weight, may be recommended to the *Hamburgh*, *Turkey* and other Companys, whom the Petitioners were aſſured would propoſe ſuch methods for effecting the ſaid Prohibitions, as may be moſt effectual and ſucceſful.

Upon which Petition the ſaid late Lords of the Treaſury cauſed Letters to be written to the ſaid Companys, taking notice in the ſaid Letters what proceedings had been made therein, and alſo ſending Coppys thereof; did in the ſaid Letters deſire the ſaid Companyes or ſome of their members to meet together to peruſe the ſaid Papers, and conſider of ſuch Rules and Methods as they ſhould judge proper and ſufficient for the effectual reſtraint of the Exportation of the ſaid Commodity; and in the ſaid Letters deſired the ſaid Companys to ſend their Reſolution thereon in writing; as alſo whether they or any of their Members would be willing to engage in the Care of ſeeing the Laws for Prohibting the Exportation of Wooll obſerved.

A Committee of each company mett, and the Letters and Papers being Read (and my Propoſals for a Method) all concluded it neceſſary to find out ſom fund proportional to the Charge when adjuſted; at which time by one of the Committee it was declared the Clothiers were ready for their part to contribute 1600*l.* *Per. Annum.* And it was then propounded that the ſame ſhould be farther communicated to other Merchants trading for *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, &c. for to procure likewiſe their aſſiſtance, And it was alſo agreed by the ſaid Committees at their next meeting to come prepared with reſolutions how much each Company would raiſe.

Att which meeting the neceſſary Charge was brought in to amount to about 4000*l.* *Per. Annum*; after which time the Factors of *Blackwell-Hall*, in behalf of the Clothiers entred into a Voluntary Subſcription of 2*d.* *Per. Cloth*, 1*d.* *Per. Serge*, and ſo *Pro Rato*, to rayſe their 1600*l.* beforementioned, for 3 Years.

The Merchant Adventurers of *England*, agreeing to contribute 300*l.* *Per. Annum* for the like time, and other Companys, by their Deputys agreeing likewiſe to contribute in proportion to their Trade in the Woollen Manufacture.

Theſe Subſcriptions being entered into, the Difficulty lay how to Collect it; the Parliament then ſuddenly meeting, a Bill was drawn up by me, corrected by Council, and approved of by the then Lord Treaſurer, which Bill, had not the Parliament been Prorouged, and I ſtraitned for want of Money, would probably have paſſed into a Law, there being nothing on my part wanting in Solicitation.

That sayling I Petitioned his Majestie for two *Sloops* to be employed for the preventing Exportation of Wooll; and tho' there was some Opposition to it, yet his Majestie was Graciously pleased to give Order to Sett out the said Sloops in that service, and the Care for their dyrection being committed to me, I did accordingly undertake it: and whilst the Vessels were preparing at *Dover* I sent over a Man to *Calice* to make some discovery, which he effectually did and assoon as one of the Vessels were ready, I went to Sea in her, and sent for my Man to come from *Calice*, fearing he might be discovered, and had he not hastened at the receipt of my Letter, in all probability he might have been Killed; for another Person was set upon in *Calice* as supposing him to be my Man, and was like to have been Murdered, had not his Landlord rectified the *French-Mens* mistake: Meeting my Man at Sea in the Packet-boat, we took him on Board, and by his discovery we took several *French* Shallops before we came into *Dover*, and tho' great Opposition was made in the Exchequer by many Claymes and other vexatious motions there, to discourage me; yet I prosecuted, and condemned three in Michalmas Term 1685, and caused more to be Seized at that time, which afterward were prosecuted to Condemnation; and in the middle of *December* I took a Jorney into the *North*, leaving my Man at *Dover*, to observe my dyrections whilst absent. The Exporters contriving how to hinder my design, had got a *Quo minus* out of the Exchequer against him for 500*l.* in the name of *John Noble*, a Person that he never saw or heard of before and kept it in their hands above a Month, that they might surely fix him in Prison, because the Vessels were discovered by him (I having sent him privately to *Calice* for that purpose) and also the Information Exhibited in his name, tho' the Forfiture of forreign Vessels are wholly the Kings. And before they executed their *Quo minus*, some of them made Affidavit and sent it up to *London*, and moved the Court of Exchequer the first day of the next Term (*viz*) 23*th.* of *January* 1685 for an attachment against him, under pretence of a Contempt of an Order of Court, for not delivering of a Vessel Seised and not Condem'd; and an Attachment was awarded against him, unless he shewed Cause to the contrary in five or six dayes; and that he might not be capable of shewing Cause, the said Exporters, assoon as they heard of an order of Court, Arrested him and carryed him a Prisoner to *Dover-Castle*, upon the 500*l.* Action; but Mr. *Breton* the Collector of *Dover*, believing it to be a sham Action, designed to Bayle him, till *William Eaton* (one of the contrivers) sent him a Letter to disswade him, assuring him it would be proved a Real Debt; so he was forced to ly in Prison.

About this time coming home I was informed of the Order of the Court of Exchequer, and the next day, I did appear my self in the said Court, and owned the proceedings of my Man, as done by my Order, and therefore would be lyable to the Judgment of the Court for what he had done, and sent for him up to answer, not knowing him then to be a Prisoner in *Dover-Castle*: but being informed of that, I moved the Court upon an Affidavit, and got a friend with me, and we become Bayle in Court, and removed him by *Hebeas Corpus*: so all that business fell to the ground; till afterwards having gott him a Prisoner att *Bulloine* in *France*, they proceeded against him on a feigned Action in the Crown Office, and would have brought it to Tryal att *Maidstone* Assizes, but I stopt it at Mr. Attorny-Generals.

After which time, upon the encouragement of the Contribution before mentioned, there were fitted out two of the best of those *French* Vessels which I had gott condemned; and together with the assistance of those two Sloops his Majestie (upon my petition) had Set out, there has been above 20 Vessels seized and condemned, and divers parcels of Wooll, besides great quantites cast over board by the Exporters, that they and their Vessels might make their escape.

But in the midst of these Transactions the late Lord Treasurer hearing little from the Merchants, after his Majestie had sett out the two Sloops before mentioned, his Lordship by his Letter dated the 15*th.* of *March* $168\frac{6}{5}$, to the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, prest the said Company, to consider what his Majestie had done, in setting out two Sloops as an encouragement for them to proceed; and of what evil Consequence Delayes were in that concern. To which the said Company, by their Letters of the 25*th.* of the same Month, informed

formed his Lordſhip what progreſs they had made in that matter; and that for their ſhare they had reſolved to contribute 300*l. Per Annum* for 3 Years; as the Factors had for their Clothiers, by their Subſcriptions of 2*d. Per.* Cloth (and for the better carring on the ſaid Work, had ordered two Sloops that had been taken and condemned by me, to be fitted out for that Service) though other Merchants had not come to any Reſolution in that matter, how much they would contribute. Upon the Receipt of this Letter his Lordſhip directed Letters dated the 30*th*, of the ſame month to the other Companys, to inform them what progreſs the ſaid Company of Marchants Adventurers had made, &c. Whereupon the ſaid Companys (or moſt of them) gave anſwer to his Lordſhip of their readineſs to aſſiſt proportionable to their Trade, for ſo good a Work; Copies of which Letters were ſent to the Merchants Adventurers, by Mr. *Guy*, the 10*th*. of *April* following (*viz.*) 1686.

And having, as before mentioned, cauſed not only ſo many Veſſels and great quantities of Wooll to be condemned at my own Charge, tho' in the Officers names, and intending to bring up the Wooll to *London* to be ſold to Clothiers, (it being generally ſold before by the Officers to the Exporters) ſome of the the Officers refuſed to agree therto, becauſe it would yeild more mony at *Dover*: upon which in *May* 1686, I wrote to then Lord Treaſurer the matter of Fact, and his Lordſhip by Mr. *Guy* ordered the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtomes to direct their Officers to permit me to take the Wooll as appraiſed (I paying the Charge) and bring it up to *London*, to be ſold to the Clothiers. In purſuance thereof, after I had condemned the Wooll at my own charge, and paid the King's moiety into the Exchequer, and remitted money to *Dover*, and paid the Officers moiety, with all their charge there, I ordered it to be brought up: And having ſetled things at *Dover*, as I thought well, and exhibited ſeveral Informations in the Exchequer on the Forfietures of 3s. *per.* Pound, and prepared to Proſecute others on the Statute of the 14*th*. of *Charles* the ſecond. By this means ſo great a ſtop was put to the ſaid Exportation by theſe Proſecutions, that Wooll did riſe in *France* above 30. *per. Cent.* in 6 months time, (*viz.*) between *January* 1685, and *July* 1686: After which I took a Jorney into the North on the Borders of *Scotland*, in order to prevent the miſchiefs in thoſe parts; but whilſt there, was informed, that ſome of the Officers of the Cuſtomes in confederacy with the Exporters, did endeavour to obſtruct my Proceedings, which they had been a long time contriving.

And whilſt I was in the North, was informed that the Wooll I had condemned for the Officers in their own Names, and paid all the Charges, and running the risk of bringing it up to *London*, as before mentioned, was by one of the Officers ſold by ſome under hand means, and he received part of the money for it, which I had fully paid him for before, and ſo went out of Town, which occaſioned a great Controverſy betwixt my Friends here, (that had ſupplyed me with money, and to whom the Wooll ſhould have been delivered) and ſome others: This coming to the Ears of the Exporters at *Canterbury* and *Dover* in few hours, for their encouragement (as well as it came to me in the North for my diſcouragement) their Plot took effect, and ſo from that time, (*viz.*) *Auguſt* and *September* 1686, the Exporters revived their old Trade, that in a little time twenty thouſand Packs were exported: The forementioned Officer was Commander of one of the Sloops that I had prevayled by Petition to his Majeſtie to fit out, and would have been put out of his place through his folly long ſince, and the Sloop laid aſide; had not I through the importunity of his Friends born with him, and kept him in; by which means the advantage he hath received thereby, cannot be leſs than 600*l.* in 2 Year and halfs time; but having for ſome time left him to his own conduct, he is through his Folly and Knavery diſmiſt from his employ.

At my return from the North, the firſt thing to be done was to get my man out of Priſon, but in little or no Capacity to hinder the ſaid Exportation from *Kent*, the 2 Veſſels before mentioned that were put out, being laid up, having neither Power to Seize Wooll, nor Collect money to proſecute the Offenders.

After which time I Petitioned the then Lord Treaſurer to Impower the ſaid Companies, Factors and Clothiers, *&c.* that had entered into a voluntary Contribution, that they might be in a condition to carry on ſo good a Work, the Petition being referred to the Commiſſo-

ners of the Customes nothing was done; this attempt fayling I Petitioned his Majestie in Council, some time after to the same effect, annexing a Copy of the Commission to Christs Hospital before mentioned, which being referred to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury about *February* 1686, their Lordships referred the whole to the Commissioners, as before the late Lord Treasurer had done, and there it rested.

Nevertheless, tho' I could not do what I would, yet I neglected no opportunity I was capable of; for hearing that there was a design privately to procure a Licence to Export 6000 Baggs of Woull from Ireland; which might contain 20000 Packs: the Names of the Persons being given to me, I went immediatly to Mr. Attorney Generals, Treasury, Secretary of State and Signet Offices, and entered *Caveats* at each Office; and a Friend of mine wrote a Letter to a Worthy Merchant and Gentleman in the Country, who did immediatly, with some other Gentlemen write to a great Minister of State; who was pleased to answer as followeth, (*viz.*)

*Gentlemen,*

*Yours of the fourth Instant was conveyed to me last night, while I attended his Majestie at Councel, which I immediatly communicated: Both His Majestie and we that had the honour to attend him were all surprized, that the Malicious False Reports that you seem to Insinuate, had obteined credit in your Neighbourhood, of His Majesties Intentions, to give Licence for the Transportation of* Irish *Woull to parts beyond the Seas: It hath been so farr from His Majesties Intentions, that He has long ago given strict Orders, both to His Admiralty, and in His several Ports to use their utmost endeavours for the strict Prosecution of all Offenders in that kind, and hath further given directions to the Officers of the Customes, to give their utmost assistance in the Affair: But for your satisfaction the King Commanded me to let you know His Royal Pleasure therein, and that He expects You to take Care that His Royal Intentions may be made Publick.*

*I have also in Command that the Justices of Assizes, do take especial Care to satisfy the Country in this particular; so Gentlemen having no more at present to trouble you, I crave leave to Subscribe my self,* &c.

London 14*th. Feb.* 1686.

After which time some of the Officers in further pursuance of their design, to baffle me in my proceedings for future, upon the alteration of some persons in Office so represented me; that I was rendered thereby wholly uncapable of any thing, and by some greatly reflected on, 'till I had prevailed by the means of some eminent Merchants, to have a hearing before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury: At which hearing it was judged reasonable, I should be re-imburst my Charge in that service, and ordered to bring my Accounts, and Certificates from Sr. *Rob. Howard*, what money was brought into the Exchequer by my Prosecutions; which being done, and their Lordships referring the whole matter to the Commissioners of Customes, in *May* 1687, upon receipt of which, the Commissioners were pleased to direct Letters to the Officers, (in whose Names I had prosecuted and paid in the money, as before mentioned) to know whither they did own what I had done, and some of them, (even these very men, that I had directed how to Seize, and undertook to runn the risk, as before mentioned, for their Advantage) were not only so base as to deny what I had done

for

for them, but alſo guilty of Forgery; ſo at that time I was rendered by ſome very Obnoxious, and at the ſame time perplexed in the Court of Exchecquer by the Exporters; and was forced to pay great Summs in my own defence, and particularly for one Witneſs being his Bayle it coſt me near 50l.; notwithſtanding all which, I at laſt recovered my ſelf in my Reputation, and gave Anſwer to thoſe Officers Letters, and ſent it to the Commiſſioners as followeth. (*viz.*)

Whereas it hath been objected that I pretend the Proſecution of Wooll and Veſſels, when is hath been done by the Officers, and Letters are produced, which would ſeem to make good the pretence; to inſtance one for all, (*viz.*) Captain *Knight*'s to the Commiſſioners.

May it pleaſe Your Honours,

*The Wooll I have taken and ſeized was by my own Endeavours and Induſtry, Condemned by a due Courſe of Law, and the King's Moity paid with my own Money: Now I humbly pray your Honours that if his Majeſtie pleaſe to grant the Bounty, I may receive it for my Encouragement,*

*Your Honours moſt Obedient and Humble Servant*

Dover *the* 9*th. of* June 1637.

Peter Knight.

In anſwer thereunto, I ſhall annex the *Affidavit* of two of his own men, that prove, that Captain *Knight* was not at *Dover*, at the time of the date of the pretended Letter; but at Sea ſix Daves before and four after, and by an *Affidavit* of his Sonns, that the matter in the Letter is Falſe, by which others may be judged; beſides the matter of *John Knight*'s *Affidavit*, I did, in a late parcel of Wooll, Seized by the ſaid Captain *Knight*, Condemn and pay the Charge, and the King's full Moiety as it was appraiſed; yet when I Sold it, I was forced to abate 3l. *per.* Pack of the Appraiſement, and ſtood to the loſs, ſingly, that I might not hinder the bringing up the Wooll, tho' it yeilded more Money at *Dover* than here, being done before the Proclamation came forth: The Truth of this Anſwer will appear in the following Affidavits, (*viz.*)

Robert Kedman *and* William Avres *maketh Oath, that theſe Deponents being employed under Captain* Peter Knight, *Commander of a Sloop to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and having been at Sea with the ſaid Captain* Knight *as Mariners, in His Majeſties Service about tenn Days, came not on Shore from Sea, 'till Sunday laſt: by which reaſon they could not Appear according to the contents of a* Subpena *iſſued out of this Honourable Court, requiring them to be at* Weſtminſter *on Munday laſt at one of the Clock, to give their Teſtimony for the King againſt* Henry Culmer. *And they could not poſſibly come to* London *before Tenſday morning laſt, and are come on purpoſe to give their evidence at the ſaid Tryal, which they apprehend to be on Thurſday, if they could not come*

*time*

*time enough on Munday, and they are able to prove, that the ſaid* Henry Culmer *hath Exported divers quantities of Wooll, having taken him in the Fact of Exporting the ſame.*

Jur. Decimo ſept. Die Aprilis 1687. Coram me, E. Atkins.

Robert Kedman.
W. A. the mark of *William Aires.*

John Knight *maketh Oath that being employed as Mate under his Father* Peter Knight *in the Service of the Cuſtomes, for about ſixteen Years paſt, he hath obſerved that after the Seizures of Wooll by the Cuſtome-Houſe Officers, the Owners of the Wooll, or ſome Agent for them generally bought the Wooll of the Officers, which afterwards was Commonly exported, and this he hath the greater reaſon to believe, for that ſeveral times, when this Deponent hath been preſent at the Seizing of Wooll, after the ſame hath been condemned, he hath taken the very ſame parcels again at Sea, as it hath been Exporting the ſecond time.*

*And that ſeveral Officers, after they have Seized Wooll, have delivered it to the Owners, without any Proceedings therein.*

*And this Deponent further ſaith, that when his Father formerly made Seizures of Wooll, he agreed with the Superior Officers of the Cuſtomes, to give them part of the benefit of his Seizures, beſides the full Charge of the Proſecution to Condemnation; by which the ſaid Officers generally had an equal Profit of the ſaid Seizures, with the ſaid* Peter Knight; *but ſince Mr.* Carter *hath looked after the Exporters, the ſaid* Carter *hath paid the ſaid* Peter Knight *all his Charges, in Taking, Appraiſing and Condemning the Veſſels and Wooll, and the full Moiety thereof clear of all Charges, and beſides when the Wooll Condemned was Sold for more than the Appraiſement, the overpluſs was paid by the ſaid* Carter *to his Father* Peter Knight.

Jur. Decimo Tertia die April Anno Dom. 1687. Ed. Atkins.

John Knight.

And as to the Charge in General of my diſcouraging Diligent Officers.

In Anſwer to which, as the Affidavit of *John Knight* before mentioned, do in part prove the contrary: So I do Averr and ſhall make good, that in the Seizures of Wooll and Veſſels, that I have undertook to Proſecute, I have bore all the Charge and run the riſk, in Caſe the Wooll and Veſſels were not Condemned, and have Proſecuted in the Officers Name, who have had the full benefit of the Moiety thereof, tho' I have been at the Seizing both of Wooll and Veſſels my ſelf.

And beſides the Charges in Proſecuting and condemning the ſaid Wooll and Veſſels in the Exchequer, I have actually paid amongſt the ſaid Officers near 200l. for their Charges about *Dover* in their Seizing, Appraiſing, and other Incidents, ſeveral of which Seizures had not I under-

undertook, the Officers would have let fall; by all which it doth appear, whether I have discouraged Officers, and gained my self; when I have within this four Years spent 1000l. in Travailing, and in the said Prosecutions, besides Servants Wages and my own time, and keeping of Horses, towards all which I have received between 2 and 300l.

After which time I Petitioned the Lords Commissionets of the Treasury, laying before their Lordships my Case and Suffering in my Service, and what Damage His Majestie and the Kingdome sustained thereby; and had prepared for Tryal of a Transporter in Michaelmas Term, being not able to proceed and having borrowed diverse great Sums to carry on the Affayre so farr; which being referred to the Commissioners of the Customes, they ordered their Solicitor to disburst the Money, upon which I proceeded, and as before cast the Exporter; some time after I attended the Commissioners upon the former reference, who were pleased to make Report as followeth.

May it Please your Lordsh ps

*In obedience to your Lordships commands upon the annexed Petition, and other Papers of* Mr. Carters, *delivered to us by your Lordships in* May *last We have considered the said Petition and Papers; and do humbly Report to your Lordships that we have observed the Petitioner to have been a very Zealous prosecutor of the Transgressions, and transgressors mentioned in the Petition, and that upon his motion the King was pleased about two years since, att his own charge to set out two Vessels to prevent the Transportation of* Wooll, *which are continued in that Service to this day, that in his proceedings he hath met with great opposition and difficulty, and upon that consideration he has upon diverse occasion obtained favourable Reports from this Board; as a Person fit to be countenanced and encouraged in his proceedings: yet we never intended that his charge was to be born by the King, supposing his recompence to be out of his share of such penalties and Forfiturs, as he should himself Prosecute and recover, or should be otherwise contributed to him, by the Merchants and Clothiers, who he alledged to be willing to undergoe the Charge, and by the Account hereunto annexed we find that he has run himself into very great Expence, and we are informed that not having met with the Encouragement he Presumed upon from the Merchants and others, he has much lessened his own private fortune thereby. Upon the whole Matter we are humbly of opinion that he has with great Heartiness and Zeal, Prosecuted the Offenders and Vessels, that have been Guilty in Transporting Wooll, and that he hath dealt therein with all Honesty and Integrity, and we are humbly of Opinion that the said Account hereunto annexed, is a true Account, he having offered to make Oath of the Truth thereof, and we do Humbly recommend the same to your Lordships Favourable consideration, but we cannot advise the disposing of his Majesties part of the Forfiture, otherwise than they are already disposed by Proclamation.*

Custom-House February
the 18th. 1687.

N. B. D. N.
J. W. W. C.

In

In which Report you may perceive my Actions and Integrity, and that I have not received the Money I have expended, much less any thing for my Time, Hazard and Labour, nor for my Servants, or keeping of Horses these four Years, besides former Disbursments, part of which was before mentioned in the late Lord Cheif Baron's Report; more you may perceive by these following Lines, what I Wrote to the Merchants and Clothiers, and Printed it, as an Advertisement to them, in the Year 1672. (*viz.*)

## *A Brief Advertisement to the Merchants and Cloathiers*, &c.

*GENTLEMEN*,

I Had an Intention, the beginning of the last Summer, (before a long and chargeable Fit of Sickness befel me for near three Months,) to inform you in what state that Affair about Exportation of Wooll, then stood; in which the Life and Death of your Trade, and the subsistence of many Thousands of Families, that depend on that *Manufacture*, consists.

Give me leave, (by some of the many instances I could give,) to demonstrate, that, my Labour, in this affair, hath not been fruitless altogether.

I have now been four years engaged in this Service: and how I have been forced, as well upon Travils, as Watching both by Sea and on shore, I presume is well known to many of you.

And what expence I have been at, in that time, both for servants and horses, and in my attendance at Court, and on the Parliament, gratuities to Sea-men, and parties of horse, and for the holding, and maintaining correspondencies in *Ireland*, *Flanders*, *&c.* you cannot but in some measure be able to appehend.

And that it must be the greater, in that I have not spent six daies, in twelve Moneths, at my own habitation, with my Friends: either to abate expences, or to look after any private business of my own.

What damage I have sustained, by losing my Trade in pursuance of this affair, is wel known (at least) to some: for,

When first I undertook this Affair, I intended to spend only one Moneth, or thereabout, in attending on the Parliament for a new Act, which held me near six Moneths; and at the Adjurnment of the Parliament, I returned to my calling; it being kept on foot for me, during the time of my attendance.

But those that knew my Trade at that time, know right well what opportunities of advantage I left slip.

Therefore it must be a great mistake in some, that think I took up this Affair, as though I had nothing else to doe.

For I was importuned by several Merchants and Others, soon after the Adjurnment of the Parlament, to address my self unto his Majestie in Council, for a Party of Horse, to be in *Romny Marsh* in *Kent*, where the greatest part of the Wooll is shipped from *England*; and some Frigats, for preventing the said mischief; which through his Majesties favour and incouragement, I did obtain.

Upon the promise of those Merchants, to re-imburse my charge, I proceeded.

And had those Merchants and Others, perform'd their promise, as some few did, I had done much more than I have, (though I have left nothing undone, that I was capable to perform, or doe, considering how little assistance I had from others) and indeed, my endeavours in this business, have had so good success, as to prevent many Thousand Packs of Wooll from exportation, that the effect evidenced it self (at that time obvious to many Merchants, from their correspondents beyond Sea,) in the rise of Wooll there and the fall here.

But

But ſhould it now hereafter, for want of incouragment and attendane miſcarry, how much it will wound *Englands* trade to the heart, I need not tell you, for, ſuch is the gaine and incouragemend, for the tranſporting of this commodity, that if any imployed, or entruſted in this affair, will be bribed, they need not make complajnt for want of Money, I do aſſure you: and if I for my integrity muſt fall, (and be forced to quit thes ſervice,) after all this four years labour and travail, It will be no encouragement to any other Peaſen, to engage a-freſh therein.

Give me leave to adde, that it was no ſmall grief to me, during my ſickneſs, to here of the many hundred packs of Wooll that were exported, (both from *England* and *Ireland*,) more than had been at other times, which you will eaſily ſee in the enſuing Petition and Letter; and my trouble was ſo much the more for as much as the King had given Order, a little before, that a Veſſel purpoſely hired, becauſe of Her ſwiftneſs, ſhould attend that affair, and though I had made proviſion (by correſpondante) for intellegence to prevent that miſchief, yet I had not Money to pay Servants, nor to encourage my coriſpondents, nor that I could find any willing or able to purſue the ſaid buſineſs, either becauſe of the hazard or pains, or expenſiveneſs thereof. The effect of which about *Michalmas* laſt, occaſioned this following Petition.

# To the Kings moſt excellent *Majeſty*

## The Humble Petition of ſeveral Merchants.

*Sheweth,*

THat although many ſevere Laws, have been made againſt the Tranſportation of Wooll; nevertheleſe, many evil-diſpoſed Perſons, do frequently Ship-off great quantities thereof to the great decay of the Cloathing-Trade of this Kingdom, and to the undoing of many thouſant Families, who lived comfortably thereupon: and being through an ill cuſtom, ſold in forraign parts, as cheap as in many many places of this Kingdom; by means whereof, the Woollen Manufacture of this Nation, findes but ſmall vend abroad, and dayly decreaſeth in price; ſo that neither the Clothier, nor Merchant, have any incouragement, in making, or tranſporting the ſame; together with ſuch great duties impoſed by the *French* King, and Others; as in effect amounts to an abſolute prohibition, (and that no purpoſe to incourage the Manufacture of their own Country.) Which if by ſome effectual means, be not ſpeedily prevented, muſt in a ſhort time, wholy deſtroy the great Manufacture, and Staple trade of this your Majeſties Kingdom, and conſeqvently to the decreaſing of your Majeſties Revenues, of the Cuſtom; and that more particularly of late dayes, a greater quantity of Wooll, hath been tranſported then formerly, by reaſon, as is doubted, of the connivance of ſome Officers, and eaſily compounding with the tranſporters when diſcovered, which gives great incouragement to thoſe Perſons, to continue in this moſt deſtructive courſe

*Your Petitioners moſt humbly pray, that your Majeſtie, would be pleaſed to iſſue out your Royal Proclamation, commanding all Officers and Others, to put the Laws in execution, that ſo all may take notice thereof: there being many poor people imployed in ſhipping off the Wooll, who pretend ignorance, and know not the Penalty of the Law: and that no compounding be made with any, but the Laws may be ſeverly put in execution, againſt all Perſons that may be found guilty.*

And tho' I have before upon this occasion incerted the substance of a Letter Dated, *Flanders March* the 5*th*. 167⅛. yet I cannot wave a repitition of this part of it.

*Sir*

I received yours of the $\frac{17}{27}$ *February*, under Covert from &c. about the Wooll-affair. I have much reason to believe, unless some are made Examples, there will be continual abuse; the Commodity, both *English* and *Irish*, Raw and Comb'd, abound so much in these Countries, as at present it's worth nothing. &c.

Now Sirs, how both these do answer, to what was said before, that unless this Business be continually attended, by some Person, that will be faithful; there will be an inevitable ruine of the Clothing Trade, may be easily perceived.

Give me leave further to inform you, what great Sense his Majesty himself hath also of this Affair; who hath been pleased to evidence it, both by his Care and Charge, in not only commanding His Troops, but several Frygots to attend upon every Occasion, beside his Hireing a Vessel; he also hath spent many dayes in Council about it; and in declaring his resolution, strictly to execute all the Laws against the Transportation of Wooll, and to further all rational Proposals, that can be further made; and did order (upon reading the fore-mentioned Petition of the Merchants) his Royal Proclamation, to be issued out about this Matter.

Now for a conclusion, Gentlemen: If this service be acceptable, and that it be carryed on, you cannot imagine, it can be done without supplies. For, you cannot expect the King should take the charge of it wholly upon himself; of which, the profit will mostly return to his Subjects. Nor that I should, if I were able, bear it my self, though indeed I have done it beyond what my condition could well permit me; and it's very plain, what hath been the consequence of my being discouraged, and taken (wholly off) but three Months from this Affair.

Sirs, I hope you will believe, and i'ts but Rational, so to do; if I have spent so much of my time, and strength, mostly upon my own charge, with those hazard I have been exposed to, these four years, in this Affair, with that little incouragement I have received: that if incouraged but with necessary supplies, so that I might not be taken off my pursuit, that I might do much more than I have; and the rather, because every thing is more easie than it was at first, having discovered so many Persons, and their wayes, and several in custody, in order to their Tryal, some Convicted: its Rational, at least to suppose the way fair, to put a stop, to this most destructive course.

Gentlemen, These instances are not of small import. To the whole Affairs, and that the agitations about them: call for no small attendance and travel; nor is it without its own charges, accompanying dispatches.

I have also given Declarations to two Persons, for transporting above three Hundred packs of Wooll, and had prepared Tryals with them; but was forced to forbear two or three Terms for want of Assistance to prosecute them; for such Potent Persons, are not easily run down: if they, and their Confederates know once with whome they have to doe, (if they will not be bribed) and that Money is wanting to prosecute, they can finde wayes by Friends, and Money, to make Suits delatory and chargeable; besides an other mischief, of taking off Witnesses: Of which you will see a Demonstration afterwards.

At *Easter* or *Trinity* Term 1669, one Mr. *John Morten* prosecutes *Mark Gabree* in the Exchequer, for transporting of Wooll. The said *Gabree* removes it into *Surry*, where Mr. *Morten* brings it to Tryal, *Midsomer* Assizes following, and subpena's one *Thomas Petley*, who had been *Gabrees* Wooll-Kember: *Morten* obtains a Verdict against the said *Gabree*; but so it was ordered, that whereas the forfiture was three Shillings *per* pound, he had but twelve pence: and being but a small parcel, he lost by it.

At *Michaelmas* following, the Tryal aforesaid, *Gabree* arrests *Petley*, by a Writ of the Crown Office for Perjury, out of revenge; and to undo him, being but a poor man, and make him uncapable of being Witnes any more; and to deter others.

At *Midsummer* Assizes 1670, *Gabree* pretends to come to Tryal: but when he saw *Petley* appear, and had his Witnesses for his defence, he let it fall that Assize.

Since

Since *Michaelmas*, Seventy one, *Petley* is again arrested as aforesaid.

But I have now presented his Case to his *Majesty*, else he would have been utterly ruin'd; and now the said *Gabree* is in Custody, being owner of the Wooll, taken at *Gravesend*, as aforesaid.

I shall conclude with a few particular Instances, that I observed in attending the Parliament, of which I only hinted some thing in *page 5th*.

To begin with a Motion made in the House of Commons 1670, when that House were under consideration of raising Money for His Late Majesty's supply, it being then taken for granted, that there were great quantitys of Wooll clandestinely exported from *Ireland* to Forreign Parts, it was then propounded, that a Tax of 2*d.* or 3*d. per l.* might be laid upon such Wooll for three Reasons, then given, (*viz.*) First, it would make it so Dear to Foraigners, that the *English* could under sell them in our Manufactury. Secondly, It would raise a great Revenue to his Majestie. Thirdly, It would be an inducement to the Officers, to be more careful to look after the Custome, and so less would go: This seemed to many Wise Grave Senators at first, to be very Feisible, until I gave Answer to it. And that was thus.

*Answ.* 1. As to 2. *d.* or 3. *d. per* pound dearer, signifies nothing: For if they Enter 10 Packs, there shall go off a 100 Packs Unentred. But grant it did all pay that Custome there in *Ireland*, it pays no Custome when it's Imported in *Holland*, *Flanders*, or *France*; and then to consider the Custome it paid here to his Majestie upon our Woollen Manufactury, when Exported, which is above five pound for a Pack of Worsted-stuffs, *&c.* and it's such Wooll that is coveted; and that as before the *French* King laying such an Impost upon our *English* Woollen Manufacturies, of 20 or 30 *per cent*, this overballanceth by ten parts the first Reason, and besides about the Manufactors working so much cheaper, which I humbly suppose, is a sufficient Answer to the first Reason of the Motion.

*Answ.* 2. As to his Majesties Revenue by 2 *d.* or 3 *d. per* pound, is answered in short; The Custome paid as above upon the Export of our Woollen Manufacturies, is double that Custome; but the Custome upon the Importation of the Product thereof, may amonnt to three times the worth of the Pack of Wooll; from hence may be concluded, That his Majesties damage by the quantity that is asserted to be Transported, cannot be less than one Million of pounds Starling; so that this also is Answered.

*Answ.* 3. As to the Officers inducement, I shall answer in short, by asking this single Question, (*viz.*) Which in reason can be the greatest Inducement, 3 *d. per* pound for Custome, or 3 *s. per* pound Forfiture, of which three parts is given to the Prosecutor, who must be supposed to be more watchful to gain the Forfieture, than the Custom for the King, if Shipt to be Transported, which is now in Force and Recoverable? But there was more in the bottom, For within a day or two of the said Motion, there was a Noble Lord did affirm in the Committee for Wooll, that his Lordship was offered a hundred thousand pound Sterling, to pass an Act for Transportation of Wooll; and besides, there is a Petition of many years standing, that within this few months I had a view of, for Combed Wooll to go off upon the same pretence as before; alledging it is course Wooll, and not for the Clothier. It's true, that it is not fit for Cloth, but it is for Worsted-stuffs, and Stockings, which is as prejudicial, if not more than Clothing Wooll.

By which that motion fell to the ground, but some time after the petition before mentioned, did appear bare Faced, of which I wrote in a Letter to the Merchants and Cloathiers (*viz.*) in 1686 Comprehending what past in Parliament from 75 till that time, (*viz.*) I began this.

Perceiving at length what I had for some time a suspition of, that some Persons at the then next Sessions of Parliament, did not only appear to justify the Fact of Transportation of Wooll privatly, but did appear publickly and in Print, to assert and avow the conveniency that it would be to this Nation; and therefore did desire, that an Act of Parliament might be made for a limited Exportation, giving also some pretended Reasons for the same.

In *March* 1676 a Bill was put into the Hand of an Eminent Member of the then House of Commons, to be brought into that House, with whome I had some Discourse, and did so far diswade him to delay, till the following Letter prevail'd on the *Factors*, and some *Clothiers* then in Town, to assist me.

*March* the 22*d*. 1676

*Sirs*, Having been at *Weſtminſter* this day, and ſpake with divers Members, I find the Arguments for the Exportation of Wooll, have ſo far prevailed with the Parliament-men, that a Bill is already put in Sr. *T. M*'s. Hand to bring it into the Houſe which may be done this very day (altho' I had ſome Diſcourſe with him about it and did endeavour to diſwade him from it)

The Conſequence of which, ſeeing it muſt tend to the utter Ruine of the Cloathing Trade, and ſeeing I have done the utmoſt that can be expected on my part to prevent it, which is to draw up Reaſons effectually to make out the Inconvenience of it, which I have alſo put into the Printer's hand.

I thought it my Duty therefore, further to acquaint you, that unleſs ſome further ſpeedy Courſe be taken for a general meeting, to conſider how, and in what manner this Miſchief ſhould be obviated. I conceived the Intreſt of the Clothier would ſuddenly have grown deſperate, ſeeing no private or ſingle Mans appearing in this Caſe, who ever he be, can ſignify any thing to oppoſe it.

I am much convinced, that not only the Cloathing Trade, but the very Intreſt of the Nation in general is at ſtake, and in hazzard to be utterly loſt, if this Point ſhould now be wholy neglected? This I have for ſome years foreſeen, and have talked of, but it hath not been regarded, but you will find that I ſpake not ſlightly, but on good grounds. and what there is juſt Cauſe to ſuſpect, will come to paſs, if this Matter be not with Induſtry and Diligence prevented.

After I had prevailed with the Clothiers to give me ſome encouragement; I did then endeavour to uſe proper Arguments, and took a fit Seaſon to preſent them, when the Houſe of Commons was ſo earneſt for the prohebiting *French* Commodities, laying before them, that the Wooll endeavoured to be limited for Tranſportation was principally intended for *France*, which proved ſo effectual for the Ends deſigned; which Arguments I refer you to for your further ſatisfaction.

After this was laid aſide, the next Seſſions of Parliament comes a Gentleman that hath been all along my Competitor (*viz*.) Mr. *Munk* as in *p*. 8 and brings in a Bill, and prevailed ſo far as to get it read and committed, upon which I drew up the following Petition, which was ſigned by ſeveral Merchants and Factors, *viz*.

Whereas *there is a Bill depending, the Parliament whereof ſeems to be againſt Tranſportation of Wooll, the Scope and Conſequence of it (as is humbly conceived) will tend rather to encourage it: For whereas it is ſuggeſted in the ſaid Bill, that the Act made in the* 14th. *Year of His Majeſties Reign, making Tranſporting of Wooll Felony, is ineffectual for the preventing thereof, and therefore prays the Repealing the Felony of that Act, without confirming the reſt of that Act; as if making Tranſportation to be Felony did encourage Tranſporting; that Suggeſtion with all ſubmiſſion is conceived to be a great miſtake: For though it muſt be granted (whatever Laws have been or ſhall be made in this caſe) that ſome Perſons for their own Lucre (though it be never ſo much to the Damage of the great Manufacture of this Kingdom, and notwithſtanding all the Care imaginable) will adventure to Tranſport Wooll. Yet for ſome Years after the Act of the* 14 Car. 2. *was in force, there was a great ſtop put to the ſaid Tranſportation, until wooll ſo increaſed in* Ireland *beyond its Conſumption there and here, that great Quantities were actually Tranſported from thence; but till that Glut the Act of the* 14th. *Year of His Majeſties Reign (by which the Forfeture was Three Shillings for every pound of Wooll beſides the Wooll forfited) conjoyned with the Act in the* 14th. *Year of His Majeſties Reign, was found effectual to prohibit Tranſporting Wooll, for*

*the*

*the Prosecutor having liberty to Prosecute upon what Act he please.*

If the Act against Felony were repealed, there would be much more Wooll exported then hath been done; for although few Persons that have any considerable Estate do now appear in the very Fact of the said Exportation, but most times poor men; therefore in reason it cannot but be supposed if the Act which makes it Felony were repealed, none elce but poor men would do it, and then to what purpose would that Act be of making the Forfiture, Three Shillings *per* pound; to be sure no one would be at the Charge to prosecute. But then of the other hand, experience is of some use in this case: I remember that I prosecuted several Persons for Exporting of Wooll about the Year 1672, upon that Act of Felony, by the perticule order of King *Charles* the second; and did Convict Fower of them, as in page the 7th. which put some stopp at that time to the said Exportation, so that both in reason and experience that Act ought to stand.

To all which I shall add what hath been done since *May* 1687. finding the work so great, both in the Charge and Hazard, and too much for my self to carry on alone, being so much discouraged, though I had done so much for the King and Kingdom's good, not being willing so good a work should fall to the Ground; a third Petition was drawn up by order of several Merchants and Clothiers in *Exon* (who by their Mayor had Petitioned the late King about the Three Kings Prohibiting all *English* Woollen Manufacture in his dominions) pursuant to the Petitions before mentioned *page.* 11 and 12, and there being a Proclamation then ordered at the Treasury, the same was at last agreed to, by the said Commitioners of the Customs, to which Proclamation two Clauses were desired in the Petition to be added (*viz.*) one to Impower some Merchants and Factors in *London*, to appoint persons to Seize Wooll, and prosecute the Ofenders. The other to Collect voluntary Contributions, to defray the Charge thereof.

And a Person to great Favour with the late King, undertook to have it added to the Proclamation, and directed me to carry the Petition and Clauses, to the Clerk of the Council; who was to get the said Kings hand that day to the Proclamation, and whilst I was there with the Clerk, word was brought that the Commissioners of the Customs would not have any Clause added, so I lost my Labour, and the Proclamation came forth without those Clauses. Nevertheless I kept things on foot, though with great difficulty; and prosecuted divers Persons in the Exchequer, and convicted one *Henry Colmer*, whose Tryal I mentioned in *page* 11, but not his name; which *Colmer* was to be employed by the order of Sr. *Nicoles Butler*, in the Room of Capt. *Knight*, when I petitioned the late King in *July* 1685, for the Two Sloops then laid down by the Commissioners *page* 10th. After which time I drew up another Petition signed by several Clothiers and Factors, which being refer'd to the Commissioners of the Customs, and upon their Report at last did consent what they had a long time opposed, and upon their Report to the Council, Mr. Atturney General was ordered to draw up a Commission, which past the Broad Seal the 28th. of *June* 1688. and the same day I was Inportuned by som of the Commissioners to send down Two Men and Horses into *Kent* and *Sussex*, to take care of inspecting and preventing that Mischief, being then Shearing-time which accordingly I did do the very same day; and defrayd the Charge my self.

That some time after was ordred by a Committee of the said Commissioners, to fitt out Two Sloops to be at Sea, and two or three Men more at Land to attend that Service, and when they were fitted I went down and gave directions therein from time to time, and prevented great quantities of Wooll from Exportation, and some Vessells seized, and some Wooll taken in the Night time, as the same was Carrying on Horse Backs to the Sea Side, and some of the Exporters themselves secured, who discovered near Thirty others; against the Cheifest of which I procured a Warrant from the late Lord Cheif Iustice *Wright*, and with as much wariness as I could (some of them before haveing Absconded) was secured 8 or 10 of the Cheifest of them and desired the Mayor of *Rumney* to Committ them, but he admitted them to Baile, tho I insisted hard to the contrary; But he was not so well pleased that I did not come first to him, which if I had, it possible I should have hardly got one of them upon that Warrant, and good reason for that he himself is since discovered

to

to be, and is now profecuted for the ſame Fact. I ſhall conclude with theſe following Affidavits, *viz.*

## *The Information of* James Webb. John Edwards. *and* Henry Spillet.

THeſe Informants maketh Oath, that being employed in the Executing of a Warrant from the Lord Cheif Juſtice againſt ſeveral Exporters of Wooll, living in *Rumney*; and was on the 11*th* Inſtant ſeverally informed of Thirty Packs of Wooll, intended to be ſhipt and tranſported that Night. Theſe Deponents, *James Webb* and *John Edwards*, together with *John Milner* was arreſted in ſeveral Actions, on purpoſe, as theſe Deponents beleive to prevent them of Seizeing the ſaid Wooll; that at or near the ſame time one *John Slaughter* a Tranſporter of Wooll, and one that was taken upon the ſaid Warrant, & bound over to the Aſſizes; came with a Hanger into the Room, and provoked them to Fight; until by the Mayor of *Rumney* was forced to be gone, the next Morning theſe Deponents preparing for *Lyd*, news was brought there, that the ſaid *John Slaughter* was come Armed with Ten other perſons near at hand, and Ten more expected to Aſſault theſe Deponents; Mr. *Carter* and his Company, upon which news the ſaid Mr *Carter* ſent to the Mayor, to diſire him to keep the Peace, and ſhortly after went to *Lyd*, and being informed there alſo ſum intentions to Export Wooll that Night, whereupon theſe Deponents and Company, prepared to go out to the Sea-ſide, about Eight of the Clock that Night, and going in the Street, were aſſaulted by ſeveral perſons unknown, and one of our Company Wounded, but afterwards diſcovered one to be the Bayliffs Son of *Lyd*, who came to our Lodging and threatned that if any ſtirred ont of the Houſe, we ſhould be fired at, out of the Town; or words to that effect, he being ſent by the Bayliff his Father, as he ſaid: But the reaſon as theſe Deponents beleiveth, was that they might not be interupted in the exportation of Wooll, as before intended; that about one of the Clock at Night, a great body of Horſe and ſome Foot, (ſuppoſing after they had ſhipt the Wooll) came about the Houſe where we Lodged, Fireing ſeveral times; Shouting and Railing upon us, but upon the Importunity of Mr. *Carter*; theſe Deponents, nor any of the Company did Fire any Gun, when we had the oppertunity of Killing of them, and were provoked in our own defence ſo to do: Theſe Deponents further maketh Oath, that when it was light, they went to the ſaid Bayliffs Houſe about the Ryot, and deſireing his Aſſiſtance in the ſearch after the perſons Guilty of the ſaid Ryot; and asked whether there was any Watch in the Towne the Night before, as his Son pretended that there was, but inquiring into it by ſeveral Jurats and others, and conſtable, found there was no Watch that Night, nor any ordered nor had been along time before: That about Ten of the Clock the ſame day theſe Deponents, was followed by about Fifty Horſemen, near the *Camber point*, over againſt *Rye*. *James Webb. John Edwards. Henry Spillet.*

This

This Deponant, *John Edwards*, further maketh Oeth; that all the men except two with the horses, got into their Sloops Boats lying ready for them, and perceiveing that some of the horsemen riding near the two men with our horses, the said men left their horses on the *Camber-point*, and got into a Boat and put off; but the horsemen fired both at the men in the Boat, and also at the horses; and here since that one of the horses is killed.

*James Atkins*, Master of a Vessel called the *Dilligence*; did see a Party of Horse armed, following Mr. *Carter* and several of his assistance, the 13*th*. Instant *December*; intending as this Deponent beleiveth to do some mischief to them, for that some of the horsemen fired at his men in a Boat, as they was coming off the *Camber*; the Shot Grazing near the Boat. *James Atkins.*

*John Syer* Marriner, maketh Oath; that being imployed in a Vessel, called the Merchants Defence; to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, he the said Deponent was required, with several others to assist in the Execution of the Lord Cheif Justice Warant, against several Exporters of Wooll; and having performed that service the 12*th*. of this instant *December*, came that day to *Lyd*, in order to go to *Rye*; on Board their Vessel then lying at Anchor there. And about Eight or Nine of the Clock in the night time, he with the rest of his company at the request of Mr *Carter*; was going towards the Sea-side to Seize, or Preven the Exportation of Wooll; which was supposed to be intended to be transported that night, and as this Deponent and Company, were going through the Street, was set on by several persons unknowne, who received several Wounds, and afterwards found one of the persons to be the Bayliffs Son of *Lyd*, after which time several persons came to this Deponents Lodgings, Firing several times, and railed upon this Deponent and Company.

And this Deponent further maketh Oath, that the next day being the 13*th*, instant, he with the rest of the Company coming toward *Rye* aforesaid, was pursued, by about fifty horsmen or thereabouts, armed and had not the Boats belonging to several Vessels gave their attendance and took us in, we might have been distroyed. *John Syer.*

*Randal Gosley* maketh Oath, that on the 13*th* instant *December*; there being a great Body of Horse come on the *Camber* near *Rye*, being supposed *Irish*, or *French*; which put the Town of *Rye* into a great fear, and being on the other side of the Harbor, the Majestrates sent some Persons in a Boat, to discover who they were, and the Reasons being enquired into, was to do some mischeif to Mr. *William Carter*, and his Assistance; who had taken up sum Persons for Transportation of Wooll: These Horsemen following them so fast that Mr. *Carters* Men could not get their Horses over the *Ferry*, but left them on the *Camber Point*.

This

This Deponent, being afterwards sent, by the said Mr. *Carter*; to look after the Horses, went as farr as *Lyd*, where one *John Slaughter* owned the Horses to be in his Custody, and would keep them so for damages, pretended to be done him by the said Mr. *Carter*; and further said that his name was *Slaughter*, and a *Slaughter* he should find of him.

And this Deponent further saith, that some others then in the Company of the said *Slaughter*, said that they would secure his Body, and some others his Soul, for that neither was his own. *Randal Gosley.*

*The Volluntary Deposition, of* William Ellis *of* Dover *Marriner*; *taken as followeth.*

THis Deponent maketh Oath, that coming from [illegible] to *Rye*, in the County of *Sussex*; passed by the way of *Lyd*, on the [illegible] of *Lyd*, and at a place called *Broombil House*, on this side *Lyd* aforesaid; the Deponent met with two Men on Horseback, who askt this Deponent whether he was going, he answered for *Gilford-Ferry* in order to *Rye*; one of them Swore (God-damn-you) you are one of the Rogues that was at *Lyd* last night, and if they thought this Deponent was one (they would share him) meaning as this Deponent beleives, in Sea terms, dividing of him; but he, this Deponent using good Language, and telling them he was not the Person they took him for, they let him pass,

But, when this Deponent came to *Gilford-Ferry*, there was one *John Smith* of *Gilford*, came in with a Bottle of Wine in his hand, and coming where this Deponent sat by the Fire side, he Swore (by God) this is one of the Rogues belonging to the Sloops, and said let us bind him neck and heels, and share him, the said *Smith* further said, there lyes *Warners Horse*, and he knew who shot him with a Slug, by which the horse fell downe, but rose againe, and some Person knockt him downe with a Clubb; and upon the same Shot. This Deponent herd *John Smith* of *Gilford*, say, that the Blood gushed from the *Horse*. and he further saith, that could he light of Mr. *Webb*, *John Warner*, *Henry Spillet*, or any of the Sloops-crew; they would certainly Kill them. And further this Deponent saith not. *William Ellis.*

*Jurat Corum me Tresime,*
*die* Decembres Anno.
Dom. 1688.

*Ditto* John Spaine *Mayor.*

*These are a True Coppys of the Original upon Record, here examined by me.* Henry Darrington *Town-Clerk*; *and* Publique Notory, *of the Antient Town of* Rye, Sussex.

# Postscript.

I Would not omit one Passage, which may be very observable, That after I had taken up, and bound over to the Assizes, the Persons mentioned, *Page* 21. the Mayor and Jurors of *Rumny* occasionally came to my Lodging the same Ev'ning, with whom I had a long Debate, I reasoning with them about the evil consequence of *Transportation of Wool*, and that many, if not most of the *Transporters*, when they came to dye were found worse than nothing; the reasons I then alledged, was the evil committed, was not only against the Interest of *England* in general, but many Thousand poor People were ruin'd by it, so it was a just occasion to blast all the Proceedings of such Persons, insomuch, that in the close of that Discourse, Two of the Company confest the Truth of what I had urged; one of which Persons had been Convicted for *Transportation of Wool*, on the *Statute* that makes the Forfeiture of *three shillings per l.* and had Execution taken out against him for the same the *Term* before; the other Person was the then Mayor of another neighbouring Corporation: But whilst I was in discourse with the said Mayor and Jurors, some of the *Transporters*, which I had that day bound over to the *Assizes*, came to my Men, and their conversation was like to end in Bloud, had I not been very importunate with the Mayor to keep the Peace, and to dismiss the Company, as in the aforesaid *Affidavit* of *James Webb*, *John Edwards* and *Henry Spillot*, do also appear.

Give me leave to add the Abstract of an *Affidavit* of one of the Persons that was in the company of *Rioters* before mentioned, who was the more able to give a full Account of their Number and Design, which person being made sensible of the evil, came off from them, and was employed by me, and of great advantage in further Discoveries, who made his *Affidavit* before Sir *John More*, formerly Lord Mayor of *London*, the substance of which followeth, *viz.*

*This* Deponent *maketh Oath, That upon the* 13th *day of* December 1688, *He was importun'd by* James Hunt *and other* Transporters of Wool *about* Rumney, *to pursue Mr.* William Carter, *who suddenly after met with a greater number of Men, about one Hundred, who went after the said Mr.* Carter *and his Men, towards* Rye, *and had they not got into some* Boats, *Mr.* Carter *would have received some hurt, for many of the* Exporters *were Desperate Fellows, not caring what mischief they did.*

William Ralph.

Jurat' coram Jo. More, Mayor, Septemb. 1. 1690.

I would crave leave to add to what I only hinted in *Page* 21. That tho' I had taken so much pains, and been at such expence and hazard, yet for want of a timely provision by a Fund to defray the charge of prosecuting those Informations, there was an Act of Grace and Pardon past which discharged the said Offenders; but what assistance I had at that time was by one Merchant, who also did disburse several hundred Pounds in fitting out the said two Vessels, and one other which was hired, and victualing of them, in expectation of being reimburs'd, which person also paid the Fees in Passing the Act in the Year 1689. to prevent *Exportation of Wool*, (the Title only of which Act have been long depending this last Session) and was also at some expence the Session of Parliament 1692. for the continuance thereof, which Merchant, tho' so generous and free for the Publick, having also several Thousand Pounds due to him for the *Transport-Ships* employ'd in the reducing of *Ireland*; and by reason that his Trade lay formerly in *Flanders*, now in the *French* Jurisdiction, he is somewhat straitned by all these means, and to help forward

his ruine, had 78 Actions laid upon him about one and the same time, and the names of some of the Plaintiffs he ow'd not one penny to, and besides to increase the charge, several of the Summs are not above 6 or 7 *l.*

I do forbear the naming of Persons, because I would not expose them, but they who are concern'd knows it best.

And as this single Merchant was prejudic'd by his voluntary expending near one Thousand Pounds for the Publick, and twice as much more in the *Transport-Ships*, so the Company of Merchant Adventurers, who had in the year 1685, and 1686. assisted me, and did disburse about six hundred Pounds towards the charge then expended, which Company having been more free than all the other Companies, against the *Exportation of Wool*, yet this Company was laid open in the year 1689. by the occasion of a Bill then depending to prevent *Exportation of Wool*, (*viz.*) the favourers of the Exporters of Wool, joyning with some other Merchants not of that Company, added that clause for the free Exportation of the Woollen Manufacture. and by it prevented that clause for a Fund to put in Execution the Laws against *Exportation of Wool*, the evil consequence of which hath been so much seen, and may be more felt hereafter, by which means all that provision before mentioned fell to the ground, notwithstanding which, I being unwilling a matter of so great concern to the Nation should wholly be laid aside, did in the Year 1690, humbly propose to the King in Council, some endeavours, not only to prevent *Exportation of Wool*, but also Trade, Commerce and Correspondence with *France*, and desired four Men as my Guard, and also the Officers of the Customs in *Kent* to assist me. and a Fifth-Rate Frigate to cruise on that Coast, which being referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, whose Lordships also referred the Examination thereof to the Commissioners of the Customs, who made Report thereof as followeth, *viz.*

*In obedience to your Lordships Commands, signified to us by Mr.* Jepson, *of the* 13*th. instant, on the Petition of* William Carter *and Papers thereunto annex'd, We do humbly Report to your Lordships, That we are of opinion, that if the Pteitioner Mr.* Carter *shall engage in the Service his Petition relates to, the assistance of four men on Horseback, which he can confide in, is but a reasonable assistance to him, and being diligently employed, may very much conduce to the proposed purposes; and we conceive that a nimble Frigate of some Force, to cruise upon that Coast, whose Commander may be sometimes instructed by the said Mr.* Carter, *would also effectually conduce to the same purpose, and we think it but reasonable, that the said Mr.* Carter, *personally engaging in the Service as aforesaid, should be also assisted by the Officers of the Customs, which is humbly submitted to your Lordships Consideration.*

Custom-House, London. 18 Decemb. 1690. R. S. J. W. G. B. R. C.

Upon which Report the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury gave direction accordingly.

Notwithstanding I had no manner of security for Money to defray the charge incident in that service, yet I took out the Orders for my men, and that from the Commissioners of the Customs, and goes down into *Kent*, and attended that service till I was forc'd to desist for want of necessary supplies; but before I did leave the Sea-Coasts, I was by the Order of the Queen directed to attempt another Affair in those parts, the effect of which service ended in the method for a Descent into *France*, in the beginning of the Year 1692. And whilst I was attending the Coasts of *Kent* and *Sussex*, in the Months of *May* and *June*, found that in order to make the aforesaid Proposals more effectual, I did humbly lay before the Queen at the Cabbinet-Council in *July* following some further things necessary in that affair; but it being referred to the Grand Council, though there were several objections against it, yet I was heard and answered these Objections, and obtain'd an order upon it, and tho' I took it out, yet there were some obstructions which put a stop to my just proceedings in this Affair, to the great damage of the Kingdom.

The

The things I then propounded to the Council, and argued for, were as followeth, *viz.*

1. The ſecuring of and ſending for an old Tranſporter of Wooll, and lately employed in that affair, who to aſſiſt others in that evil was put into the *Light-Houſe* by *Rumny*-Marſh, by the order of the then Farmer of it, which Farmer of the *Light-Houſe* having been a long time, not only a great Exporter of Wooll, but alſo an Importer of Lace and other prohibited *French* Goods, which perſon was then in *Newgate* for countenancing and abetting of perſons in going to, and coming from *France*.

2. For two Sloops to attend the Frigat before ordered, as Advice-Boats, the ſame I had formerly hired out of twenty *French* Sloops made ſwift for Sailing.

3. For ſome more men to be added to thoſe four I had before ordered, where I found moſt wanting.

4. For to be put in a capacity to proſecute divers Tranſporters of Wool then diſcovered guilty; theſe were the things I then deſired.

And give me leave to add the ſubſtance of a Letter that I afterwards wrote to one of the then Lords of the Treaſury, that did moſt object againſt me at the Council, *viz.*

*Right Honourable*,

'As to the Force now uſed both at Sea and on Shore, to attend this Service, it is found not to be ſufficient, becauſe the effects manifeſt it; and the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms by their ſeveral Reports have declared, that it was beyond the power of their Officers to hinder it; beſides, it was not in their Commiſſion, and therefore not their proper ſtation.

'And as it was with the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, ſo it was with thoſe of the Admiralty, for they could not exceed the number of the Ships of War, but your Lordſhips, as diſpoſers of Their Majeſties Treaſure, can direct either, as may be both for Their Intereſt, and the Kingdoms good.

'And Sir, what I ſaid at the Council Board will be proved, *viz.* that a Land-Guard alone, will not anſwer the end propounded, without ſome Veſſels at Sea, nor they neither, without ſuch as are proper for that ſervice, and to be under the care and directions, either of perſons concern'd in intereſt, or known of more than ordinary Integrity, (for the Temptations therein are great) of all that have been upwards of 20 Years employ'd, have obſerv'd any thing, may be credited.

'And if the *French* King (beſides his Ships of War) doth employ (as I am well inform'd) near one hundred ſmall Sloops (there being about Forty belonging to *Dunkirk* and *Calis*) for carrying on his deſign, ſhould it be thought ſo great a charge for Their Majeſties to maintain two ſuch Veſſels in thoſe parts ſo much needed, over and above the Royal Navy, eſpecially if it be conſidered, that formerly in time of Peace, there was always Two Veſſels employed by the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, on thoſe Coaſts on purpoſe to prevent Running of Goods, commonly called *Stealing of Cuſtoms*.

'Sir, give me leave to ſpeak freely now, as I did warmly before your Lordſhips in Council, that *in ſaving a Penny and loſing a Pound*; not that I propounded any private advantage to my ſelf in it, as I told your Lordſhips, I could be better content in my private ſtation, but it was for the Publick I was ſo importunate, and had been often complaining in this matter for upwards of Twenty Years, as before, from the fears of thoſe evils we now too much ſee and feel of the power of *France*, inſomuch that it may be eaſily computed, that the *French* hath gained from *England* in this time, almoſt Eighty Millions for want of our care, the particulars I have formerly enlarged.

'To conclude Sir, I do with ſubmiſſion ſay, that what ſervice I have done in this Affair, I have not as yet put the Crown to any charge, for though I have had ſeveral ſums of mony order'd me (meerly for my expence) yet a much greater was firſt brought into the receipt of the Exchequer by my Proſecutions, which are upon Record, and being matter of fact is evident enough.

*FINIS.*